

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Robert de Niro talks about facing up to his demons (and his new movie)

READ THE INTERVIEW IN TOMORROW'S FILM SECTION

THE BEST WRITING IS IN THE INDEPENDENT EVERY WEEK: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DONALD MACINTYRE, ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD

Lawyers face jail over links with fraudsters

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

LAWYERS AND accountants who fail to tip off the police about clients they suspect are laundering money face up to five years in jail, under government proposals announced yesterday.

Suspected major criminals could also have assets worth more than £10,000 seized by the courts as part of sweeping changes to confiscation and money-laundering laws. The police plan to use Inland Revenue tax files to help them target criminals who hide their money in legitimate businesses and offshore banks.

The initiative follows growing frustration among law enforcers that criminal "Mr Bigs" are able to live lavish lifestyles funded by drug dealing, counterfeiting and smuggling without fear of prosecution.

A Home Office working group yesterday published proposals to force all professionals, business and trades people to tell the police if they know, or suspect, that a client is engaged in money laundering. The new offence is aimed at solicitors and accountants, but financial advisors, bank managers, and estate agents could also be affected. Failure to report any suspicious transaction could result in a five year prison sentence and an unlim-

ited fine. Now, the law only requires people to report suspicions that someone is laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking, or is engaged in terrorist fund-raising.

Last year solicitors passed on information in 236 cases and accountants gave details of 44. This compares with more than 10,000 involving building societies and other firms.

Robert Roscoe, a council member of the Law Society, which represents 76,000 solicitors in England and Wales, argued that the numbers of referrals were low "because cases involving money laundering are rare".

John Abbott, the director general of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said an exchange of information with the Inland Revenue, whose files have traditionally been secret, would be important.

Liberty, the civil rights group, however, argued that the proposals "undermine the presumption of innocence" and violate human rights legislation.

The proposals, which are going out for consultation, will cover England and Wales and could become law by 2000.



Curator Chris Gravett cleaning a 17th century exhibit at the Royal Armouries in the Tower of London, which has just completed an eight-year 'redisplay' programme Peter J Jordan

US pledges 'will wreck' Kyoto deal

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

AMERICA WILL not be able to keep the promises it made at Kyoto last year to fight global warming, the man who negotiated the original world treaty on climate change for the United States said yesterday.

It has pledged to make cuts in its emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that are simply too enormous to be achieved, Robert Reinstein, a former senior official in the US State Department, said.

Ministers from 180 countries, including Britain's Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, are meeting in Buenos Aires to try to take the Kyoto agreement forward.

"The Americans made a mistake at Kyoto," Mr Reinstein said. "They signed up to something that is impossible to fulfil."

The result, he said, was that the Kyoto accord would eventually fail amidst world-wide recriminations and embarrassment, and the international process of trying to find an answer to global warming would be discredited.

from other countries, he said - the so-called "hot air" which is one of the principal points of contention at Buenos Aires.

America would like to buy as much as possible of the notional "pollution allowances" available to countries such as Russia and the Ukraine, whose CO₂ emissions are already well below the targets given to them at Kyoto because in the Nineties their smokestack economies have collapsed.

The European Union and the world environment movement all want a firm ceiling on how much hot air the US can buy, so that it does not avoid taking steps to deal with its greenhouse gas emissions at home.

Britain's Kyoto target is to cut back to 12.5 per cent below its 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. This looks likely to be achieved, largely because of the "dash for gas" - the widespread replacement of coal-fired power stations by gas-fired ones, which emit less CO₂.

The evidence for the approach of global warming is continuing to mount. This year is already certain to be the hottest year in the 150-year-long record of world temperatures.

Mr Prescott said last night of Mr Reinstein's comments: "That's all I'll say... what is clear is that to do nothing is not acceptable, and even if the Americans were only to achieve half their target that's got to be an advance."

Ypres veteran asks: 'Was it worth it?'

From front page

the wound he received on the Somme. He is also one of the last survivors of the Battle of Loos, in 1915, which he said, "was just as bad".

He was speaking from beneath the awe-inspiring Menin Gate at Ypres where the 54,000 dead, with no known grave, from that sector alone are commemorated.

"The more visits I make the more touching it seems to be. Because there are so few of us left. To see them now, on the way out..." and then his voice trailed away.

Asked what he thought of it all now, Mr Burns replied only that as simple soldiers they just had to do what they were told. "We just lived from day to day - despite the cold and hunger and nightmares and everything else, just hoping to goodness it would be over any day."

As a Royal Signaller aged 20, Arthur Halestrap was listening on the wireless when the Armistice announcement was made and the bells began to chime.

Serving with the 46th Midland Division in their final

battles for the Hindenburg Line and beyond, he reports a surprising reaction.

"Everything went quiet, eerily quiet. There was such a relaxation to the point where life seemed to be empty. There was nothing to do," he said. "We were completely lost, but it was only temporary."

His subsequent reactions to the war and to his own visits to the battlefields have been more predictable, and were just as eloquently expressed:

"When I come back here, all I can think of is the tens of thousands of men of my own generation who died in terrible, terrible circumstances - hanging off barbed wire for days in some cases with their pals being shot trying to rescue them," he said. "And I think that these young men had volunteered and died for an ideal - the preserving of our own country and the safety of loved ones at home."

Then he is interrupted by someone wanting him to sign a visitors' book. He simply records his name, number and unit.

"That's how I do that," he said.

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'The gunfire was phenomenal. There were 10 bullets embedded in the wall'

By PAUL LASHMAR
AND MARY BRAID

A BRITISH electrician, who escaped a gun attack on an Angolan mine, in which two Britons died and another was taken hostage, yesterday described how he hid under a blanket for almost 90 minutes while bullets ricocheted around his room.

Robin Butler, 52, said the attack by 50 gunmen on the Canadian owned DiamondWorks was launched at about 4.45am on Sunday. Private Angolan security guards employed by DiamondWorks, returned fire and a battle ensued.

"The Sun was just rising but there was a mist," said Mr Butler, whose family live in Gibraltar. "I was in the shower and about to have breakfast. When the shooting started I ran back to my room and hid on the floor under the blanket.

"The gunfire was phenomenal. It went on for an hour and a half. At the end I counted 10 bullets embedded in the wall."

"At two different points Unita soldiers looked into the room. Neither saw me, but the second stole a pair of Doc Marten boots. Later I looked out the window and could see my car on fire in the compound."

Mr Butler was discovered by two local miners who were taking advantage of the chaos to do a little looting.

They handed him over to two men wearing the uniform of the rebel Unita army who tried to force him to open the mine safe where diamonds are stored. When he told them he had no keys they tried to force it with steel bars.

When the rebels took flight amid new gunfire he refused to go with them. "They drove off. I hid in a container" took him to a nearby village, and safety.

Recovering in his hotel room in the Angolan capital Luanda yesterday he said he felt very sad for the families of those who were lost or missing. He had not seen any of the other Britons after the shooting began.

Alan Thomas, 49, from Liveredge, West Yorkshire, and a mine engineer; David Boultie, 26, from Bracknell in Berkshire, were killed, and Jason Pope, 26, was kidnapped along with four other workers.

"Everybody scattered and made their way the best they could... Unfortunately some were killed trying to get away." Asked how terrified he had



From top: Jason Pope was kidnapped, but Alan Thomas and David Boultie died in the attack. The resurgence of attacks by rebels means that mining areas are extremely dangerous. Harriet Logan/Network

been Mr Butler said "I am a Christian, I trust in the Lord."

In addition to the two British victims, a Portuguese employee and three Angolans, including a representative of the state diamond company, also died and 18 Angolans were wounded.

Yesterday Angolan government troops were combing the jungles around the mine in the remote village of Yetwene, 600 km east of Luanda, for Mr Pope and four other hostages including two Filipino mechanics and a South African metallurgist. Yetwene is closed to the Congo border.

Rebels from Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), who are slipping back into all-out war with the Angolan government just four years after they ended a 20-year civil war, were being blamed.

Mr Buckingham is part of a new generation of businessmen who provide foreign governments with military help and then benefit from mineral concessions.

He has had close connections with the leadership in

Angola for more than a decade. In 1983, the government paid Executive Outcomes, a mercenary company associated with Mr Buckingham, to drive Unita forces out of key strategic areas.

In 1996, following negotiations, DiamondWorks obtained mining concessions from the government. Yetwene was the most recent concession.

Yesterday Richard Cornwell,

of the South African Institute for Security Studies, said Unita was probably responsible for the murderous attack, but that the country was once so lawless that bandits or a renegade rebel group might also have carried it out.

DiamondWorks financed Unita's 20-year war with the MPLA (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). The MPLA became the government in Angola after a

peace deal was finally brokered between it and Unita in 1994. As one observer put it "the only game in town".

Following the peace accord

Unita withdrew from the mining producing areas in return for government promises of proper concessions. After the government reneged on its promise Unita renewed its guerrilla attacks.

The resurgence in Unita attacks has meant that these mining areas are extremely dangerous. Movement is difficult as the terrain is rough and the roads poor. Now Unita

and bandits make random attacks on vehicles using the roads. Mine staff and supplies mainly come and go by helicopter.

Foreign-owned diamond companies operating in Unita-controlled areas are in increasing danger. When the rebels attack them, they hit the government's coffers, and undermine its ability to rule.

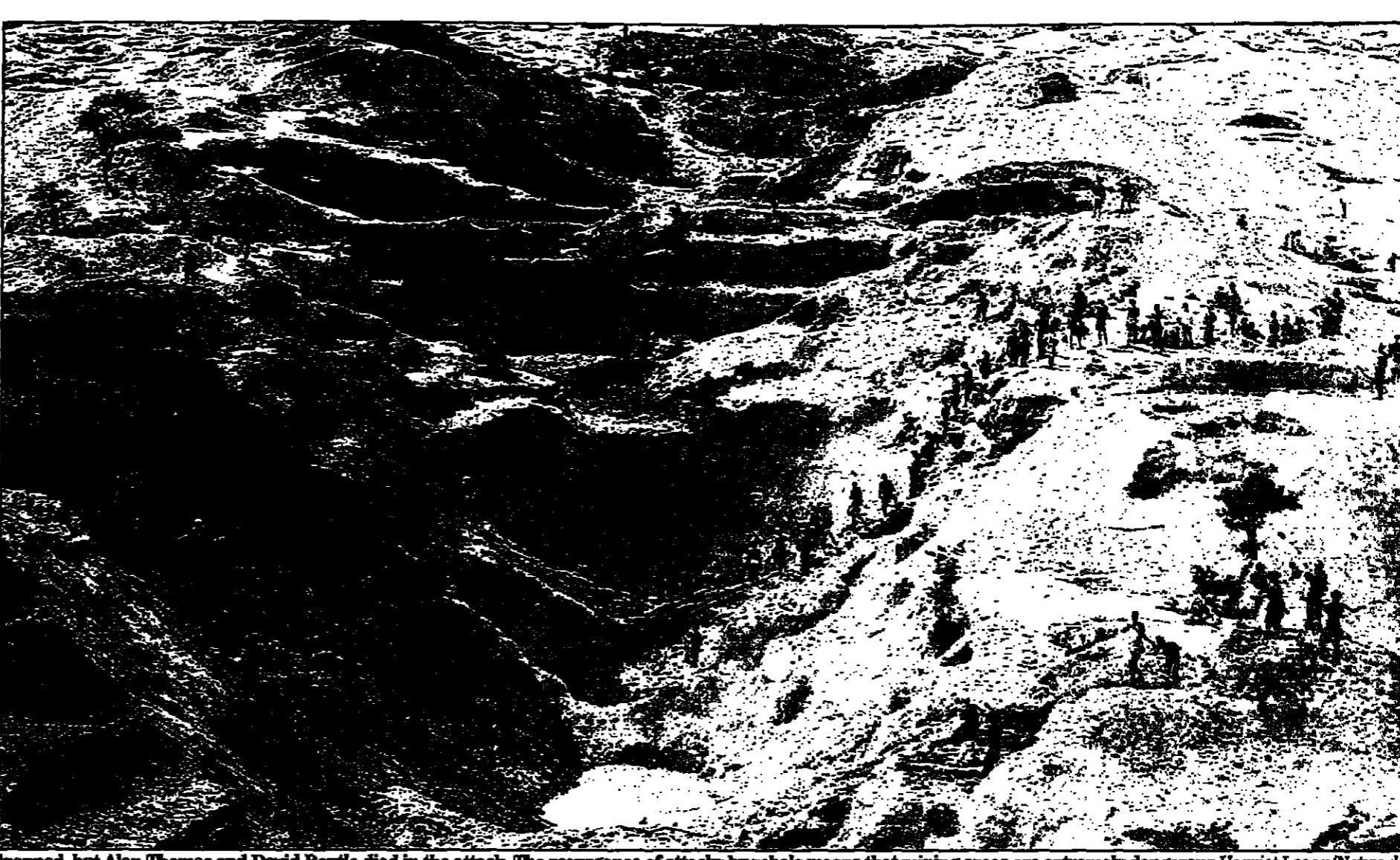
When the mine came under attack the company apparently received no help from a local government army base for some hours and the compound was only secured when pri-

vate security reinforcements arrived.

A renewal of hostilities could be similarly protracted and just as destructive. There is no certainty that the government would win. In sending troops into neighbouring Congo, to prop up the government of President Laurent Kabila, the Angolan government has left itself over-stretched and vulnerable.

"He would not take suicidal risks but he had a spirit of adventure," Mr Boultie said of his son who gained a first-class honours degree in mining engineering at the University of Exeter in 1996.

But earnings abroad, especially in dangerous situations, are lucrative. Asked if he would return to Angola, Robin Butler said yesterday, without any hesitation, "I'll go back".



Boycott found guilty of assaulting woman friend

By JOHN LICHFIELD
AND GARY FINN

GEOFFREY BOYCOTT was found guilty of assault for a second time yesterday when a French judge decided that the former England opening batsman had made a brutal attack on his girlfriend in an Antibes hotel two years ago. He was fined £5,000 and given a three-month suspended jail sentence.

The cricketer-turned-commentator immediately appealed against the conviction. He also made a side-swipe against the court in Grasse, south-east France. "In the view of the way the trial was conducted," he said, "I suppose it is not a total surprise."

Speaking from Pakistan, where he was commenting on the Australian cricket tour for Rupert Murdoch's Star TV, he added: "When I went to see *Fatal Attraction* [a movie about a vengeful, jilted lover] I never thought it could happen to me."

While Boycott appears confident of his future, there are black holes where contracts used to be. He no longer works for the BBC, there are no deals with Sky, and his contract with Trans World International, which feeds cricket coverage to local networks such as India and Pakistan - where the Cult of Boycott is strongest - ended at close of play in Lahore yesterday. There was a further blow last night when *The Sun* announced that his column would no longer be featured in the newspaper.

The proceedings in Grasse last month were rumbling, chaotic, often baffling, almost out of control, but most independent observers present - including the massed ranks of the



Margaret Moore outside court in Grasse yesterday PA

British press corps - thought the cricket legend got a reasonable innings.

Perhaps too reasonable. Many of the 13 defence witnesses flown by Boycott to the south of France - at a cost estimated to have topped £200,000 - appeared to have nothing directly relevant to say.

The judge, Dominique Hamant-Daumas, indulged Boycott and his lawyer when they presented hours of muddled evidence from, among others, a psychiatrist who had never met the victim, Margaret Moore, 46. (He judged her, from television clips and conversations with a former husband, to be a "hysterical psychopath".)

There were also three British women who travelled to

France at Mr Boycott's expense to say they had suffered similar injuries to Ms Moore - two black eyes, severe bruising on the face - just by falling over in the street or at home. It was a circus, it was mostly a circus of Boycott's making.

After presiding over the 10-hour trial of "L'affaire Boycott", Judge Hamant-Daumas decided yesterday, in a delayed verdict, to deliver precisely the same judgment as another judge who conducted the original ten-minute trial in January. The first trial was set aside because the 55-year-old former cricketer failed to turn up, saying he had a more important engagement commenting on Test matches in South Africa.

Ms Moore, a divorcee with

two children, claimed Boycott punched her 20 times in the face, head and chest, holding her to the ground and staring at her with "wild, piercing and manic" eyes. Boycott insisted she fell over while throwing his shirt, shoes and underpants out of a hotel window during a quarrel.

In a seven-page written explanation of her verdict, the judge made it clear that Boycott's behaviour in court - telling Ms Moore's lawyer to "shut up" at one stage - had counted against him. "In the court, the accused didn't hesitate to interrupt rudely Mrs Moore's lawyer, tarnishing the image of the perfect gentleman which he brought his old friends and witnesses to testify to."

Judge Hamant-Daumas said the evidence presented to the court "did not support the theory of an accidental fall". She had decided that Ms Moore was the victim of "purposive blows".

Ms Moore, who returned to Grasse for the judgment, said she was delighted with the verdict. "I am the victim here. He beat me three times in all. I want to urge every person who has suffered violence to report it to the police." She was, once again, awarded the 1 franc (10.5 pence) symbolic damages that she had requested.

The Third French Test - Mr Boycott's appeal - is expected to be heard in the Provencal appeal court at Aix-en-Provence at a date to be fixed next year.

In the meantime, Ms Moore is not holding out much hope that the Yorkshireman will pay her the damages. "I don't think I'll get my franc because he is a little tight-fisted," she said. "If I get a cheque I'll frame it and if I don't I'll send him a writ."

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London mayor: Former GLC leader attacks the 'Daleks' of Millbank after party machine says candidates will be vetted

Labour panel will scupper Livingstone

KEN LIVINGSTONE last night attacked the "Daleks" of Labour's Millbank headquarters after the party backed a selection system designed to kill off his chances of becoming the Mayor for London.

The Brent East MP, and former leader of the Greater London Council, went on the offensive as the London Labour Party voted for a vetting panel to draw up its shortlist of candidates for the job.

The 23-strong board of the London party was expected to approve the proposal that all party members could nominate themselves for the candidacy before going before the special panel. The panel would then draw up a shortlist of about five names that would be sent out to all members in the capital for a one member, one vote ballot.

Other leading contenders in the race for Labour's candidacy include the Sports minister, on

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

any ballot paper, a risk that his opponents in the party leadership were not prepared to take.

Tony Banks, the Transport minister, Glenda Jackson, and the Labour leader of the Socialist MEPs, Pauline Green.

The post of Britain's first directly elected mayor, with a mandate of 7m voters, is a key part of the Government's constitutional reforms.

"Almost all of it would have been avoidable if it were not for the tactics of the Dalek faction of Labour's Millbank Tendency. We have got to get these nutters out," he said. "I wonder if there are some extremists who would rather see Labour lose these elections than fight them with an ideologically impure candidate. Just for their information, I for one will not be terminated easily."

He said yesterday that he was not some "freak from the fringe" and pointed to his success in getting on to the NEC last year, gaining more rank and file votes

than the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson.

Joan Ryan, the MP for Enfield North and a member of the board, admitted that it was "possible" that the system could lead to the barring of Mr Livingstone. "Mr Livingstone is a candidate who's constant-

ly argued against the role ever existing and spent the last couple of years ensuring that we don't get to this point," she said.

Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, said that it was "nonsense" to suggest that Labour was not inter-

ested in devolving power to its members. In a pointed reference to Mr Livingstone, she said: "Members don't have to be famous to make good candidates."

A party spokesman said: "This system is not designed to favour any one individual. Equally, it is not designed

to block any one individual."

The spokesman added that the selection system proposed for London was entirely in keeping with similar procedures for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and even future MPs. More than 80 per cent of Londoners voted for

the creation of a Mayor and Greater London Assembly in a referendum earlier this year.

A bill to set up the new authority is certain to be included in the Queen's Speech later this month.

I won't be exterminated,

Review, page 3

Ken Livingstone is blaming Labour party spin doctors for the row over the selection of the Mayor for London

Peter Macdiarmid

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 11 November 1998 the following interest rates will apply on the savings accounts listed below.

60 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross* Rate p.a.	Previous AER** Rate p.a.	New Gross* Rate p.a.	New AER** Rate p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	7.30%	7.30%	6.80%	5.44%
	£25,000	6.95%	6.95%	6.55%	5.24%
	£10,000	6.70%	6.70%	6.20%	4.96%
	£5,000	6.45%	6.45%	5.75%	4.60%
	£500	5.70%	5.70%	5.20%	4.16%
	£1	5.55%	5.55%	5.00%	4.00%
30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT					
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	6.30%	6.30%	5.90%	4.72%
	£25,000	6.05%	5.05%	5.65%	4.52%
	£10,000	5.55%	5.55%	5.25%	4.20%
	£5,000	5.30%	5.30%	4.95%	3.96%
	£1	5.25%	5.25%	4.50%	3.60%
30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT					
(Interest paid monthly)	£50,000	6.15%	6.33%	5.70%	5.85%
	£25,000	5.90%	6.06%	5.45%	4.36%
	£10,000	5.40%	5.54%	5.05%	4.04%
	£5,000	5.15%	5.27%	4.75%	3.80%
	£1	5.10%	5.22%	4.30%	3.44%
INSTANT ACCESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT					
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	5.65%	5.65%	5.00%	4.00%
	£25,000	5.15%	5.15%	4.50%	3.60%
	£10,000	4.90%	4.90%	4.25%	3.40%
	£5,000	4.65%	4.65%	4.00%	3.20%
	£2,000	4.10%	4.10%	3.55%	2.84%
	£500	3.85%	3.85%	3.45%	2.76%
	£1	3.05%	3.05%	2.25%	1.80%
TESSA 2					
	£6,601	8.25%	7.28% ++	7.45%	6.63% ++
	£1	8.00%			
GOLD DEPOSIT ACCOUNT					
(Interest paid annually)	£50,000	3.90%	3.90%	3.05%	2.44%
	£25,000	3.65%	3.65%	2.90%	2.32%
	£10,000	3.40%	3.40%	2.65%	2.12%
	£5,000	2.90%	2.90%	2.25%	1.80%
	£2,000	2.65%	2.65%	2.00%	1.60%
	£500	2.40%	2.40%	1.70%	1.36%
	£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%
RAINBOW SAVINGS					
(Interest paid annually)		5.75%	5.75%	5.00%	4.00%
CASH CLUB					
(Interest paid quarterly)		5.75%	5.88%	5.00%	5.09%
ROUTE 17					
(Interest paid quarterly)		5.75%	5.68%	5.00%	5.09%
ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS					
TESSA					
		6.25%	5.73% ++	5.60%	5.17% ++
ROYAL REWARD					
(Interest paid annually)	£100,000	6.05%	4.05%	5.40%	4.32%
	£50,000	5.95%	3.95%	5.30%	4.24%
	£25,000	5.70%	3.70%	5.05%	4.04%
	£10,000	5.25%	3.25%	4.60%	3.68%
	£5,000	5.00%	3.00%	4.35%	3.25%
	£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%
ROYAL REWARD					
(Interest paid monthly)	£100,000	5.90%	3.97%	5.25%	3.30%
	£50,000	5.80%	3.87%	5.15%	3.20%
	£25,000	5.55%	3.61%	4.90%	3.92%
	£10,000	5.10%	3.14%	4.45%	2.48%
	£5,000	4.85%	2.89%	4.20%	2.22%
	£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%

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† Rates include a 2.00% gross bonus (1.62% net paid) anniversary bonus which will be paid if no withdrawals are made during the 12 month period other than on the anniversary date, and the balance does not fall below £5,000. † Interest is not compounded. The AER assumes that the maximum balance permitted by the inland Revenue is deposited at the earliest opportunity (each year).

How Red Ken turned cuddly

IT IS more than 17 years since Londoners woke to the news that a little-known, left-wing firebrand called Ken Livingstone had been chosen as their new leader.

In a spectacular piece of behind-the-scenes political manoeuvring, the man who was to be dubbed "Red Ken" by a huge unemployment update banner draped on the front of County Hall, and his gift for self-publicity meant that he was a constant thorn in the Government's side. Such was the Prime Minister's annoyance with the Livingstone phenomenon that she eventually abolished the GLC.

Less than 24 hours after Labour had squeaked home to win the GLC elections by 42 per cent to the Tories' 40 per cent, the 35-year-old councillor won a caucus vote to head a party riven with internal division.

Within weeks, Mr Livingstone's affection for Sinn Fein, his lack of love for the Royal

Family and his backing for homosexual, women's and minority rights had turned him into a national bogey figure.

His unconcealed loathing of Margaret Thatcher, symbolised by a huge unemployment update banner draped on the front of County Hall itself.

Less than 24 hours after Labour had squeaked home to win the GLC elections by 42 per cent to the Tories' 40 per cent, the 35-year-old councillor won a caucus vote to head a party riven with internal division.

Within weeks, Mr Livingstone's affection for Sinn Fein, his lack of love for the Royal

Family and his backing for homosexual, women's and minority rights had turned him into a national bogey figure.

His regularly tops opinion polls as Londoners' choice as their first directly elected mayor and, along with Tory peer Jeffrey Archer, has dominated the television screens to such an extent that many people already assume he is Labour's official candidate.

Yesterday, the Brent East MP claimed he was proud of his record and even suggested he had proved years ahead of his time. "Virtually everything I did as leader of the GLC has become official party policy," he said. "Pro-public transport, democratic control of the police... homosexuals in the Cabinet,

over 100 women MPs, even the negotiating with Sinn Fein..."

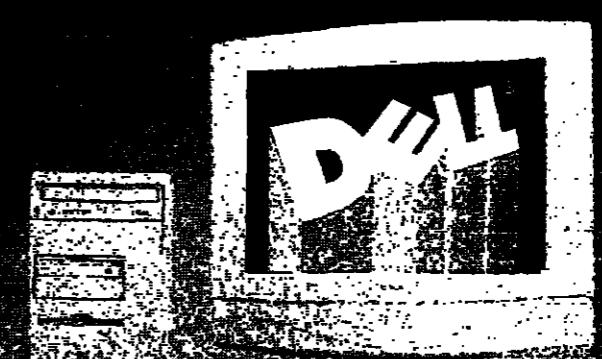
However, his opponents say he has not ditched his radical views. He may fondly recall the popularity of the GLC's "fares fair" policy of cheap travel but, they say, he is glossing over the furious controversy of his backing for Sinn Fein.

Millbank officials, the MP's avowed enemies, say his attempts to rewrite the history of his GLC tenure will not fool anyone within the party. A party source said it was clear he was trying to "airbrush" his image.

However, Livingstone supporters said last night it should be left to party members to decide whether they wanted Ken, be it the Red or the Cuddly one. "Nobody can say that his past is a secret, can they?" one said.

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One in five male JPs is a Mason

ONE IN five male magistrates is a Freemason, according to the Government's first survey of the judiciary's membership of the secretive organisation.

Figures unveiled by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, showed that up to 19 per cent of male JPs and 49 per cent of judges were Masons.

Lord Irvine told the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee there was "no evidence" whatsoever that a judge or magistrate had treated a fellow Freemason favourably. However, there was a widespread public perception that such unfairness occurred and it was important for them to declare membership in the interests of openness.

The survey by the Lord Chancellor's Department of 26,000 magistrates in England and Wales found that 1,097 JPs admitted membership, with 867 refusing to answer the question.

As women make up half of the total and are not allowed to join the brotherhood, the number of male magistrates who have declared their membership works out at 13.6 per cent, with 5.4 per cent declining to answer.

With a further 2,030 magistrates yet to respond to the survey, the figure could be even higher than one in five. MPs said a similar survey of all 5,300 judges in England and Wales found that 247 admitted they were Freemasons.

A public register of individual judges and magistrates who declared their membership will be published by the Government next year.

The Lord Chancellor accepted that the survey had been "highly controversial" among the judiciary but it was clear that all judges should declare their masonic links in court if a fellow member of the code appeared

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

before them. "Although there is no evidence that any judge who was a Freemason had acted falsely to his judicial oath, there still exists a public perception," he said. "I think what feeds the public perception is that Freemasons accept an obligation to assist one another in times of trouble and when people are in court they are in trouble."

Chris Mullin, chairman of the committee, said that it could be reasonably assumed that most of those who refused to respond were indeed Masons. "A figure of one in five male magistrates, with no doubt significant regional variations, is not unrealistic," he said.

"There is a fair amount of public paranoia about Freemasons but they have only themselves to blame because they are so secretive."

Latest estimates put the number of Freemasons in the UK at 300,000, equivalent to just over 1 per cent of the male population.

Gerald Howarth, Tory MP for Aldershot and a member of the committee, said that the survey was "an appalling example of political correctness" that whipped up public prejudice against the organisation.

Mr Howarth said that the move was a "gross invasion of privacy" and pointed to comments by a senior judge, Lord Saville, who had recently compared the survey to the Vichy regime in France asking about a person's Jewish origins.

The Lord Chancellor also told the committee that he had not ruled in "or out" Labour's manifesto pledge to set up a judicial appointments commission to get more women and ethnic minority judges.



Dame Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens in a scene from 'Britannicus' Geraint Lewis

Set texts take to the stage as West End goes classic

SHAKESPEARE will soon be jostling with Racine in the West End of London. A sudden vogue for classical drama among audiences looks likely to change the theatre capital's reputation as the home to musicals and light comedy.

While television and radio are accused of dumbing down, theatre is going through an intellectually elevated phase.

Thelma Holt, a West End producer, will shortly announce that she is staging a production of *Macbeth*, starring Rufus Sewell in his first major Shakespearean role, and Sally Dexter, at the Queen's Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue early next year. It will be only the third unsubsidised Shakespeare production on Shaftesbury Avenue since the Second World War.

Ms Holt said yesterday she had no qualms about investing her money in a Shakespeare production in the heart of the West End. "Quite simply no one has sent me a better play to put on," she said. "I've got a young company and I'm confident of attracting a young audience. There's a new hunger for serious theatre. And, despite opinion to the contrary, the young are going to the theatre whenever they can afford it."

At the Albery Theatre in St Martin's Lane, the Almeida company is playing to full houses every night with two plays by the 17th-century French dramatist, Jean Racine, in repertory and starring Dame Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens. One play, *Britannicus*, is delivered in Alexandrean couplets.

Michael Billington, the drama critic and biographer of Harold Pinter, described having two Racine plays in the West End as "a minor miracle".

But the miracle has had an unfortunate side-effect. Ironically, the vogue for classical drama has rebounded on one of the greatest directors of the genre, Sir Peter Hall, and is likely to deprive audiences of more high-class drama next year. He has been asked by the

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor



Sir Peter Hall: Casualty of the new drama vogue

commercial owners of The Old Vic to bring his company there next year and run the theatre with an artistic policy. But he revealed that when he asked the Arts Council for financial help, he was told there was already sufficient serious theatre in London.

Sir Peter said: "I have the actors and I have the programme. But I don't have the money. I have asked the Arts Council for a guarantee against loss - not a subsidy - of half a million

pounds a year for the next three years. They have been sympathetic but unencouraging. Their view is that there is sufficient serious theatre in London."

The plight of the Sir Peter Hall company since a falling-out between Sir Peter and his financial backer and producer Bill Kenwright, casts a shadow over the renewed interest in serious theatre in London. As things stand Sir Peter's production of Alan Bennett's play *Kafka's Dick*, which opens next week, will be the company's last.

Sir Peter added: "Kafka's Dick marks the end of my association with Bill Kenwright and, at the moment, any further productions with my company in the West End.

"Sally Greene's new theatre trust that now runs The Old Vic has asked me if I could return there next year, after the run of *Amadeus*, in order to continue the work. A decision will be made about this in December, but it is not looking hopeful."

Last year, Sir Peter did a series of 13 plays at The Old Vic. He describes it as "the happiest year of my professional life". He is urging that once again a theatre so famous for a classical repertoire should be "run with a policy".

Jonathan Kent, who directed the two Racine plays, said: "I think there could be more serious theatre in London. There is a need for this sort of theatre. We're constantly being told that theatre is dying and the younger generation isn't interested. It's simply not true. These plays are playing to 97 per cent audiences."

"When we suggested putting on these productions in the West End people looked polite but astonished."

"But I managed to get together the finest ensemble acting in this country at the moment and the finest verse speakers. Diana Rigg is a great leading actress, but this isn't celebrity theatre."

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Portillo forced to pledge his loyalty

THE TORY leader, William Hague, forced Michael Portillo to make a pledge of loyalty yesterday after the former cabinet minister was accused of plotting against him.

An angry Mr Hague telephoned Mr Portillo after he demanded the Tories give a stronger lead to the campaign against British entry to the single European currency. His intervention, in an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, was seen as a criticism of Mr Hague's leadership.

After Mr Hague's rebuke, Mr Portillo issued a statement praising his "bold leadership of the Conservative Party in general and in particular on European issues".

Mr Portillo said: "I am a strong supporter of all his policies, including those on Europe ... William Hague's leadership on this will bring about the revival of the party's fortunes

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Political Editor

and confirm his clear prime ministerial qualities."

The loyalty oath failed to stop another outbreak of Conservative feuding over Europe. Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, renewed his allegation that there was a plot by Eurosceptics to replace Mr Hague with Mr Portillo.

"I think William should be extremely concerned about what lies behind this Portillo agenda," said Mr Heseltine.

"It's quite obvious, when Michael comes back there is going to be a concerted campaign, in which newspapers like the *Telegraph* will play a significant part, in order to replace Hague with Portillo. It's as clear as any political event in the future can be."

Mr Heseltine warned that

the Tories were heading off in a false direction. "The party's support is haemorrhaging from people who left the party to vote either Labour or Liberal, both of whom had a pro-European policy stance," he said.

Although Mr Hague's allies were playing down the affair last night, they were privately seething. "Portillo's criticisms are bizarre," said one.

"We have given priority to the single currency issue by halting party members on it. Others have criticised us for giving it too much priority."

Mr Portillo, who lost his Enfield Southgate seat in last year's general election, wants to return to the Commons in a by-election. But yesterday's controversy shows that his attempted comeback will be fraught with difficulty and strain his relations with the Tory leader.

Mr Portillo was rebuked by

Michael Ancram, the Conservative Party chairman, who insisted: "We are giving a clear lead on the single currency. What we are looking for is for others to follow that lead."

Rejecting the criticism of the Tory campaign on the euro, Mr Ancram said: "We will be looking to bring people from business in. We will try and form a broad coalition, and we will be at the forefront of the argument."

In his article, Mr Portillo said the Conservative Party was the only body with the political weight and experience to lead the many organisations opposing the single currency.

"Until we provide that leadership, there is a real danger that the majority against joining EMU will be whittled away by Gordon Brown's inglorious, but corrosive, argument that British membership is inevitable."



Peter Young, a former City fund manager, leaving court yesterday after appearing on fraud charges Nicola Kurtz

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Fraud case man appears as woman

PETER YOUNG, the former star fund manager at the centre of one of the biggest City scandals in recent years, appeared in court yesterday dressed in open-toed high-heeled sandals, flesh-coloured tights, a beige patterned jumper and flowery skirt.

Mr Young, who also wore shoulder length hair; a black shoulder bag, bright red lipstick and glasses, was represented at the hearing by his barrister, Alex Cameron. The former fund manager with the City firm Morgan Grenfell was remanded with three others to appear for a transfer hearing on 15 March.

The four were charged last month on various counts of fraud, conspiracy to defraud and offences under the Financial Services Act 1985. The charges relate to a series of irregularities in various Morgan Grenfell unit trusts, which resulted in losses of £220m two years ago.

Also at the City of London magistrates' court yesterday were Norwegians Jan Helge Johnsen and Erik Langaker, both former employees of stockbrokers Fibab Nordic. Mr Langaker resides in Portugal but is frequently in London on business. Mr Johnsen lives in London.

As a condition of bail, both were required to have sureties of £100,000. Mr Langaker was repre-

sented by Stephen Pollard, the solicitor who acted for Nick Leeson, the former Barings trader.

After the discovery of the alleged irregularities Mr Young left the firm, which had to be bailed out with £180m by its parent company Deutsche Bank. Deutsche was also fined for City regulatory offences as a result of the affair.

Stewart Armer, who was also employed at the time by Morgan Grenfell, did not appear in court yesterday. Mr Armer, who was represented at the hearing by his lawyer Maurice Martin, is in Chile but will appear for the hearing on 15 March. He has had to put up a £10,000 guarantee.

Mr Young, whose address was not disclosed in court, and his alleged conspirators are accused of setting up a web of Luxembourg-based companies to conceal various investments in high-risk companies from the auditors, trustees and regulators of a number of funds that Mr Young managed.

According to the charges, Mr Young and Mr Armer used the elaborate structure of Luxembourg companies to get around restrictions on the nature and size of the investments that the funds, which were aimed at ordinary retail investors, were able to hold.

Rotherham opts in with its own single currency

BY ESTHER LEACHE

"WHERE THERE'S euros, there's brass is not yet a South Yorkshire duchy but it will be one day," said Denis MacShane, the Labour MP for Rotherham. His constituency yesterday provided the launchpad of the Rotherham euro - a precursor to the European currency that comes into being early next century.

The hundreds of euro bank notes given away in the town centre were, in fact, 70p shopping vouchers which couldn't buy much except time in a multi-storey car park and a discount on anything over £10 at a number of shops.

But, said Mr MacShane, it was a way of getting people talking about the euro.

The majority of European Union countries will use the euro to replace their national currencies from January 1999. It will be in use on the financial markets although coins and notes will not be issued until January 2002.

Mr MacShane's idea is backed by Rotherham's business community. As from 1 January British Steel, the town's biggest employer, starts invoicing and paying customers in Europe in euros.

In Rotherham, Gillian Riley,



The Rotherham euro

40, said: "The real euro has got to be simpler, we'll all be able to use the same currency in everything."

Training specialist Peter Walker, 48, wanted to show the Rotherham euro to colleagues in Belgium. "They will be interested to know what we are doing and really in the long run the euro will be saving although it will cost something to make the change."

Cafe owner Michael Mearns, 35, said: "I was going to offer 70p off a meal if a customer presented a Rotherham euro but decided to give free tea or coffee instead because I know it wouldn't work. It will be a while before the idea of a euro sinks in with the people of Rotherham. They don't like change and they are very careful with their money."

Funny handshakes and funnier wigs on the agenda

THE LORD CHANCELLOR has made plain for some time that he would dearly like to "be" himself. As the only member of the Cabinet who is actually required to drag up for a day at work, complete with tights, full-length wig and a fetching pair of Emma Hope buckle shoes, he has been feeling increasingly uncomfortable of late, a man forced to submit his bodily urges to the stifling conventions of a more strait-laced time.

He no longer wants to live a lie. He's not an 18th-century merchant. He feels comfortable in suits. But Tory traditionalists have reacted with something close to revulsion

at his suggestion that he reveal his true nature and are absolutely adamant that parliamentary decency won't be outraged in this way. Such is their indignation that it isn't entirely inconceivable that they will insist that he also wear rouge and a large beauty spot when they vote on the matter next week. The sons-toupees are at the gate and must be dealt with firmly.

In the meantime, Lord Irvine restates his case with resigned modesty. Yes, he confirmed yesterday to the Home Affairs Committee, he did feel that "for male adults of sound mind... the days of breeches and tights and buckled shoes have

passed". He had no objection to full costume on some occasions. When ceremony demanded it, he was prepared to perch on the woolsack in "full kit", like a mischievous boy consigned to the naughty cushion. In such circumstances he would buckle down, buckle up, buckle to and buckle under.

But for routine business he would much prefer to get his kit off, and the very first thing to go would be the wig. This is understandable. Barristers' wigs, of which the Lord Chancellor also disapproves, are hardly very onerous accessories. They perch on top of the head, a small mammal seeking refuge from

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

a flood. The Lord Chancellor's wig is a more ponderous matter altogether - in its combination of wrap-around clutch and fleecy dangle it

brings to mind a sheep clinging to a bollard. This is not very comfortable for the bollard. "The wig weighs an absolute ton, I can tell you," said Lord Irvine plaintively as he made his case to a wig loyalist.

It wasn't the only question of costume that came up. The fondness of some judges for rolling up their trouser legs and donning embroidered aprons was asked by Gerald Howarth, who asked the Lord Chancellor to comment on the Government's register of judicial Freemasons.

Rather as *The Sun* opened a "tell us if you're gay" hotline for cabinet ministers this week, the Govern-

ment has recently instituted a "come out of the lodge" line for magistrates and High Court judges. Yesterday, Lord Irvine told us how many magistrates had availed themselves of this service, revealing that 6.8 per cent had confirmed that they indulged in mumbo-jumbo, though they did it in private and only with other consenting adults, while 5.4 per cent had refused to answer the question.

There was an almost audible buzz as journalists set about working out what percentage of Britain's magistrates could legitimately be identified as members of the funny handshake brigade. Start with 6.8, and decline the offered post.

Minister warns of serious downturn

PETER MANDELSON gave a gloomy prediction of a "serious downturn" of the economy yesterday, warning that there would be "inevitable job losses as a result in the coming years".

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry said the question was "how much Britain will suffer as a consequence" and "how we can withstand the consequences".

Speaking during an Opposition-led debate on the decline of manufacturing industry, Mr Mandelson said he wanted to make Britain a knowledge-driven society to increase levels of productivity at a time when confidence was "fragile" in British business.

"We will only succeed if we create open, competitive markets; if we can upgrade skills and spread knowledge of best practice in business," he added. But he went on to accuse

ECONOMY

By SARAH SCHAEFER

Political Reporter

the Tories of "absolutely crying out" for recession because it was "their only route to political salvation".

Addressing current problems in the global economy, Mr Mandelson added: "No one disputes that this is a serious economic downturn."

"There will be inevitable job losses as a result in the coming years. The question is how much Britain will suffer as a consequence and how we can withstand the consequences."

He insisted that almost all forecasts supported the figures of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, of modest growth next year. "Amidst all the present pressures, it is vital to realise that we can talk ourselves into a greater slowdown than is necessary," Mr Mandelson added.

Earlier in the debate, John Redwood, the Tories' trade and industry spokesman, branded Mr Mandelson the "minister for manufacturing recession" and the "minister for factory closures".

He accused him of "turning a blind eye" to the problems facing British business and understanding nothing about them because he had "never worked in business" himself.

The Government, he added, had made it "too dear to make things in Britain" by raising business taxes and increasing the regulatory burden.

Mr Redwood said: "The productivity problem is not of industry's making, it is of the Government's making."

"They are the ones that are bleeding industry dry by taking the money out of industry's till and coffers and putting it

into the Treasury or administration."

Since coming into power last year, the Government had transformed the UK from being the number one place for new investment for multi-national companies to being the number one place for closure.

Mr Mandelson, he said, had likened himself to John the Baptist. "John the Baptist was closer to being an atheist than you are to understanding British manufacturers. You haven't invited business to a baptism but a funeral."

Redwood said. David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrats' trade and industry spokesman, attacked Mr Mandelson and Mr Brown for complacency towards the crisis facing Britain's manufacturing industry.

"The Chancellor is just about the only forecaster who thinks the manufacturing industry can avoid a recession next year," he added.

CBI warning, page 18

Workers leaving the Rover plant at Longbridge in Birmingham on the day the firm announced 1,500 job losses earlier this year Ben Head

Tax credit for low-paid will help families on £38,000

FAMILIES EARNING up to £38,000 a year will benefit from a flagship government policy aimed at helping the low paid, it was revealed yesterday.

The Tories warned that the £5bn-a-year working families tax credit, which will replace the £3.5bn family credit scheme next October, would give money to people who did not really need it.

Iain Duncan Smith, the opposition spokesman on social security, accused the Government of "scattering money" at higher-rate taxpayers and bringing them into the dependency of the welfare system.

A couple with one earner on £15,000 a year would receive only 25p a week, while a single

TAX

BY ANDREW GRICE

Political Editor

children aged under 11 could still receive the new tax credit with an annual income of £38,000. A family with four children and earning £25,000 would receive £5.69 a week.

Mr Duncan Smith said that the new system would undermine Labour's much-heralded commitment to the family, because it was biased towards lone parents and penalised married couples with only one wage-earner.

A couple with one earner on £15,000 a year would receive only 25p a week, while a single

mother on the same income and with weekly child care costs of £100 would get £70.25 a week.

Mr Duncan Smith said the Tories would oppose the scheme and called for the family credit system to be retained.

But he stopped short of promising that they would abolish it if they returned to power.

Further criticism of the working families tax credit came from the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). Far from encouraging people to take jobs, the IFS said it could deter a husband or wife from returning to work because they could lose 70p in every extra £1 they earn.

The new credit scheme is the idea of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, whose officials insisted that people on high incomes would receive only very small amounts.

Dawn Primarolo, a Treasury minister, said that 1.5 million hard-working families would be better off under the new scheme and they would be appalled at the Tories' failure to support it. "The Government believes it is right to take action to ensure that work pays more than benefit and right also to provide for the first time proper help with childcare costs so that parents can balance work and family responsibilities," she said.

FO 'was urged to recall envoy'

FOREIGN OFFICE staff had a "heated discussion" with Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone after he advised the country's exiled president to recruit British mercenaries to help to reinstate him, MPs heard yesterday.

One official told the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee that he had recommended the recall of Peter Penfold after being told he had "a tendency to freelance".

Craig Murray, who was

ray and Mr Penfold, liaised with representatives of Sandline International who were aiding plans for an invasion.

Sandline escaped prosecution for breaching a United Nations arms embargo because it argued the Foreign Office knew what it was doing. Mr Murray said yesterday he had been "set up" by Sandline's chief executive, Tim Spicer.

Mr Murray said when he asked the Foreign Office Africa director, Richard Dales, whether there was dichotomy between government policy and the actions of Mr Penfold and Britain's special envoy, John Flynn, he was told: "There is no dichotomy in our policy. Our problem is getting Messrs Penfold and Flynn to pursue it."

Mr Murray said Mr Dales had admitted that Mr Penfold had a "tendency to freelance".

Mr Murray said that Mr Dales told him: "He had rather gotten into that mode of operation."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Defence head

The Prime Minister has appointed the businessman Tony Edwards as the Head of Defence Export Services, Defence Secretary George Robertson announced.

High fuel costs

With a rate of duty on a litre of unleaded petrol of 43.9p, UK motorists pay the highest rates of excise duty on petrol and diesel of any of the EU countries, said the Treasury Economic Secretary, Patricia Hewitt.

Coaches 'unsafe'

More than 5 per cent of coaches stopped at random by police were deemed unroadworthy, Junior Home Office minister Paul Boateng said in a written reply.

Waiting lists

Health Secretary Frank Dobson acknowledged there had been a rise in the number of people waiting for doctors' appointments. But the Tories were "moving the stadium" in the way they calculated NHS waiting lists.

Meale in clear over lobbying

ALAN MEALE, one of John Prescott's ministers, was last night cleared of breaking Commons rules over lobbying for planning permission for a football club development. Sir Gordon Downey, standards commissioner, said he had investigated the complaint by Liberal Democrat Paul Tyler but found Mr Meale had not breached MPs' rules.

Today's Business: Commons: 2.30pm - International Development

THE HOUSE

questions: Prime Minister's questions; Scotland Bill, Lords amendments; Short debate on child protection. Lords: 2.30pm - Regional Development Agencies Bill; Northern Ireland Bill, report; Debate on measures to improve links with Iran.

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JOHN MINTON

Education: New contracts will demand a written promise from pupil's family on assignments and good conduct

Parents asked to sign pledge on homework

ALL PARENTS will be asked to sign agreements promising to ensure that their children do their homework and behave properly, the Government said yesterday.

Children as young as five may also sign up to pledges to be "friendly and helpful" in home-school agreements that come into force next September.

Schools will be compelled by law to draw up documents, which will spell out for the first time what they expect of parents and what parents should expect of them - for example, a good standard of education.

Neither side will have legal redress if they believe the other has reneged on the bargain. Nor will parents be compelled to sign. Ministers say the point of agreements is to reinforce ties between home and school, a vital part of raising standards. Critics argue that those parents whom schools are most anxious to involve in their children's education will be the least likely to sign.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards minister, said: "For too long the assumption has been that some parents don't want to support their children at school. That is patronising. Some parents may find it more difficult but the challenge to schools is to present the policy in a way which makes it easy for parents to play their part."

In existing agreements, parents promise to turn up to parents' evenings, support

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

homework and ensure children are at school on time with the right equipment. Schools promise "to achieve high standards of work and behaviour" and care for pupils' "safety and happiness".

Children will be encouraged to sign where governors consider that they are mature enough. Charles Clarke, the Schools minister, said some schools already encouraged pupils aged five and six to sign anti-bullying policies. "The more likely that children are to commit themselves to a particular approach, the more likely it is to work effectively," he said.

Ministers also issued guidance on homework which should start with about 10 minutes of reading or number work when children start school, reaching 30 minutes a day for those aged 9 to 11. From the start of secondary school, pupils should do as much as 90 minutes a day, rising to two-and-a-half hours a day for 16-year-olds.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, announced an extra £20m in government funding for out-of-school clubs for those who find it difficult to study at home. The clubs will also offer out-of-school activities in sport, art, music and drama.

Theresa May, the shadow schools minister, said: "In their obsession with imposing rules,



The government ideal sees the child being encouraged to do homework by the parent - but at what age should they start? John Lawrence

Leading article,
Review page 3

Ten hours study, but not for all

THERE ARE still wide variations in the amount of homework given to pupils, according to new findings in a report from the Office for Standards in Education.

Some children in reception classes are doing about 20 minutes each night, double the amount recommended by the Government. Others are doing scarcely any.

And while some 11-year-olds sit at their books in the evening for more than two hours a week, a few are getting away with less than half an hour. In secondary schools, most are doing more than 10 hours a week but a few make do with five hours.

The findings are based on a survey of 227 primary and 141 secondary schools in the autumn term last year. Inspectors have complained for years about big differences in the amount and quality of homework. On the evidence of the

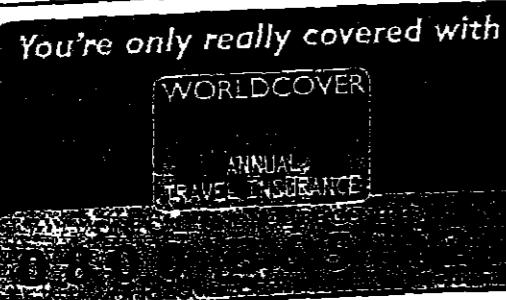
By JUDITH JUDD

new survey, homework appears to have become more common in primary schools, probably since the Government began to insist on its importance.

Labour committed itself to homework guidelines while it was in opposition after research from the National Foundation for Educational Research revealed only half of primary school pupils did any.

Yesterday's report says three-quarters of the primary schools surveyed now have written homework policies, most devised in the past few years. The survey suggests that in most primary schools, these policies are broadly in line with government guidelines.

Older secondary school pupils appear to be spending less time each week than the Government advises: the average is 10-and-a-half hours rather than 12-and-a-half.



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Race relations: Study examines police strategies while armed forces seek ways to eliminate discrimination in the ranks

F Police 'out of touch with racial groups'

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THE POLICE are seen as racist and out of touch by many young people and ethnic minority groups, according to a Home Office study published yesterday.

Officers are also accused of working on crude stereotypes when dealing with the young, Afro-Caribbean and Asian people and being superior when handling cases involving the working class.

However, citizens become more sympathetic and supportive of the police as they grow older and richer.

Young people were particularly influenced by negative experiences with the police while on the street. Young black and Asian groups complained about the police being ignorant of their cultures and using negative and outdated stereotypes.

Researchers identified 'key social groups for policing' and questioned small focus groups

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

representing different ages, sexes, economic backgrounds and ethnicity.

Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, said: "Negative perceptions of the police service, particularly amongst young people and ethnic minorities, are a cause for concern. Too often the police are seen as distant, out of touch and unsympathetic to the needs of these groups."

"This presents us all with a challenge - effective policing requires strong working relations with all sections of society regardless of age or race."

The study identified three distinct approaches to policing that are supported by different social groups. Young people and working-class adults want more proactive and focused policing, such as anti-mugging strategies. They were in favour of undercover and cover action by the police.

The use of visible patrolling as a means of reassurance was attractive for middle-aged middle-class adults, older men and ethnic minority groups, although they were easily persuaded that proactive policing was more effective.

Older women and retired people believe visible "beat bobbies" were not just a means of reassurance, but also reduced crime and made them feel better protected.

The researchers concluded that the police "should regard the public not as a single entity, but as a number of separate and distinct communities. This would involve a form of 'segmented' policing: different styles, but not different standards, of policing".

■ *Public Expectations and Perceptions of Policing* is available by faxing 0171 273 4001.

of people who held negative images of the police. In line with many of the submissions made to the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, these often involved ethnic minority groups.

Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, said: "Negative perceptions of the police service, particularly amongst young people and ethnic minorities, are a cause for concern. Too often the police are seen as distant, out of touch and unsympathetic to the needs of these groups."

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Speaking to 100 delegates, in-

cluding George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, and the Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Charles Guthrie, he referred to initiatives used in America, including training sessions, zero tolerance campaigns and monitoring of the performances of senior officers in matters of race.

In America, any overt expression of racism was absolutely crushed," he said.

General Powell's message was delivered on the day that the Household Cavalry stepped up its campaign to recruit more people from ethnic minorities by taking troops on to the streets of south London.

At midday, eight gleaming black horses with polished hoofs were unloaded from a box outside the Ritzy cinema in Brixton, and mounted by soldiers in full uniform.

Unlike their usual style on duty in Whitehall, the soldiers were encouraged to speak to passers-by. The whole point of the exercise, after all, was to convince members of ethnic minorities that they would be wel-

come in the Armed Forces.

"The idea is to show people that we are the same as anyone else: we're just doing a job and we're not totally detached from what's going on," said Captain Rick Manning. "We've come down here to show people we're a caring, sharing Army."

Few people bothered to stop and admire the horses, as the Household Guards had hoped. "The Household Guards, what

they doing round here?" said one man, pausing on the steps of the public library. On learning the purpose of the parade, he shrugged: "All the black people will be able to do if they join is clear up the horse shit."

Semai Francis, a writer in his early forties, propped himself up against the wall. "The Horse Guards trying to recruit down here is a waste of time."

"This is all very mamby-

pamby, airy fairy to the average person who hasn't got a job. It conjures up colonial days to me: the British empire, fascism, right-wingism. It's not progress. It's more retro-Britain."

Six-year-old Oliver James tried on a soldier's helmet. His father, Neville, 41, was reluctant to pay any attention to troops, but had been persuaded by his son. "Would you like to ride horses or drive tanks?" asked Mr James, entering into the spirit of the occasion. But deep down, he felt uneasy. "I would not encourage any of my kids to join the Army until the infrastructure had changed," he said.

Trooper Crowther, 19, was encouraged by their reception.

"I'd say it's quite a breakthrough, really," he said. "It's something that's been a long time coming. They've been planning it, but they weren't sure about the public reaction."

However, it was going to take more than one parade in Brixton to convince Mr James. "There's a cynical side to me which says, 'Do they really mean this or is it just a publicity stunt?'"

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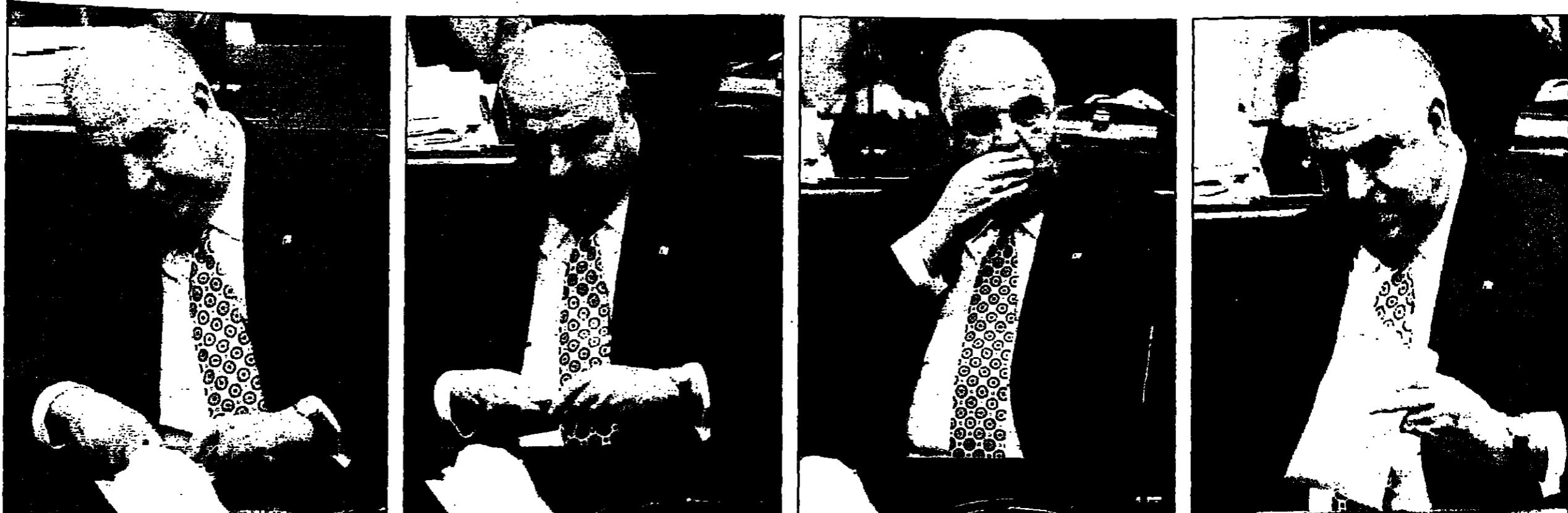
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Time appears to weigh heavily for former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Bundestag yesterday. Mr Kohl was pictured as his successor, Gerhard Schröder, made his inaugural address to parliament Thomas Kohler EPA

Schroder outlines his 'New Centre'

CHANCELLOR GERMARD
Schröder ushered in his "Repub-

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

paucity of vision. "We have said that we do not want to do everything differently, but many things better," Mr Schröder reminded parliament. Proving to be a man of his word, the Chancellor spoke for two hours about minor improvements he had in mind.

He evoked the New Centre, a Schröderite variation on the

Third Way theme, promising to liberate Germans' entrepreneurial spirit, thus creating the conditions for an economic renaissance. Taxpayers would be receiving DM15bn (US\$3bn) back from the state by 2002, DM5bn more than originally envisaged.

Nevertheless, business con-

demned by industry, and economists are unconvinced by promises of a cut in long-term unemployment.

The new administration hopes to rekindle the "alliance for jobs" plan first proposed by a trade union leader two years ago. The idea is for employers and employees to thrash out a deal, bringing down labour costs while arresting the trend of mass lay-offs.

The initiative will be

launched before the end of the year.

The opposition had heard it all before, and wanted more specifics. "Showtime is over," shouted Wolfgang Schäuble,

the Christian Democrats' new leader, succeeding Helmut Kohl. "What's needed now is substance."

But Mr Schröder has always been stronger on style, and re-

fused to heed his opponent's ad-

vice. So he dwelt on the future

instead, the new beginning rep-

resented by the move to Berlin. The New Centre, he assured

Germans, would be perfectly at home in the former capital of the Reich.

"To some people, Berlin still

sounds too Prussian, too authoritarian, too centralised,"

Mr Schröder said. "Our totally non-aggressive vision of a Republic of the New Centre stands as the exact opposite of this."

The city is to receive extra

funds for its cultural institutions,

he promised, though there is no talk just yet of building a mil-

lennium dome in the new ep-

icentre of Cool Germany.

Betraying his priorities, Mr Schröder devoted little time to his country's relationship with the outside world. He paid lip-service to the independence of the European Central Bank. In foreign affairs, he praised the importance of the transatlantic link and grumbled about Germany's contributions to the European Union budget, but gave few details.

Nato eye in the sky keeps Kosovo safe

UNITED STATES Air Force officers are flying unmanned Predator spy planes from a former Warsaw Pact airbase in Hungary to feed a stream of live video military intelligence to the Pentagon from the battlefields of Kosovo.

Although satellites and manned spy planes also feed intelligence back to Washington and Nato command, the Predators, based at Tassar, are the sole source of real-time video for Nato's Operation Eagle Eye.

"We're the only ones that can get full motion video—that's our key," said Sergeant Leo Glownka. "From five to ten miles away I can see people and what they are doing."

From an altitude of between 15,000 and 20,000 feet the camera in the 27ft-long aircraft zoomed in on a Hungarian village to show a male pedestri-

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Tassar, Hungary

an wearing a beige coat and carrying a white plastic bag.

The \$3.4m (£2.1m) spy-planes are Nato's answer to threats by Serb nationalists lead-

ers to down Western airplanes flying over Kosovo. They are a mainstay of Operation Eagle Eye, which monitors Serb compliance with the UN resolutions that demand a military pull-back from Kosovo.

Each Predator has a two-

man team—the pilot and the sensor operator, who controls the cameras and the flow of information. The pilot uses computer controls to adjust the aircraft's speed, altitude and direction as it penetrates deep into hostile territory. The information is bounced by satellite to Molesworth airbase in

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A man inspects a model of 'Homo erectus pekinensis', or Peking Man, on display south of the Chinese capital Peking Man, which was discovered in China, is believed to have lived 300,000 years ago. *Natalie Behring*

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Russia 'suffering a silent disaster'

BY PHIL REEVES
AND HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

FIVE SHIPS taking supplies to beleaguered Russians in the Far East have been abandoned after getting stuck in ice amid an increasingly frantic battle to avert a disastrous winter in Russia's remote reaches.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from communities in the frozen east and north because of a lack of fuel and food, while others have voluntarily fled hundreds of miles to the nearest towns as Arctic weather closes in.

The stranded ships—one carrying 100 tons of much-needed diesel fuel—are just one setback in a crisis caused by Russia's economic meltdown but compounded by a bad harvest, floods, drought, falling imports and fracturing supply lines.

The Red Cross says this winter may be the worst in a generation for millions of Russians, and is appealing for the West not to turn its back. Still two-thirds short of a \$15m appeal for Russia, it has warned that the country is suffering a "silent disaster".

Rural Russians are renowned for their survival skills, honed over decades of shortages and miserable weather. But Caroline



Hurford, spokesman for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Moscow, said: "This winter, you will see on your television screens scenes of absolute poverty."

Despite assurances from the Russian government that the situation is under control, this is far from the only warning voice. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation yesterday unveiled a report

saying that—although national shortages of basic foodstuffs were not expected—some Russians could face hardship in the coming months caused by a sharp decline in the output of wheat, barley, potatoes and other crops.

"The most vulnerable socio-economic groups—pensioners, orphans, the unemployed and households de-

pendent on public salaries, can expect a rough winter," it said.

The Russian authorities want impoverished northern regions to be the main focus of two aid deals with the West, not least because climatic conditions prevent the population from growing their own food.

Moscow signed a \$625m (£386m) agreement last week with the United States for 3.1 million tons of food. Yesterday, a tentative deal was reached with the European Union in which Russia will buy \$480m of food, and receive up to \$14m of EU humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile, the five abandoned vessels have been left in an ice-bound river mouth on the Kamchatka peninsula after repeated efforts failed to blast them free. The Russian Ministry of Emergencies plans to send trucks to off-load the diesel once the ice becomes thick enough.

IN BRIEF

Clinton considers attack on Iraq

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton met senior Pentagon officials yesterday to explore options for a possible military attack on Iraq. The White House said President Saddam Hussein must "reverse course and allow full co-operation" with UN arms inspectors. Mr Clinton also discussed diplomatic options, a senior administration official said.

Shell base in Lagos under guard

EMPLOYEES STAYED away and armed police guarded the Lagos headquarters of Royal Dutch/Shell's Nigerian oil producing unit yesterday, the anniversary of the 1995 hanging of nine Ogoni activists who had campaigned against Shell for its alleged pollution.

Civilians flee Sierra Leone battle

HUNDREDS OF civilians have fled their homes in south-eastern Sierra Leone to avoid fighting between rebel forces and a pro-government militia. Fighting began on Monday and continued in Tonga Field, 220 miles east of Freetown.

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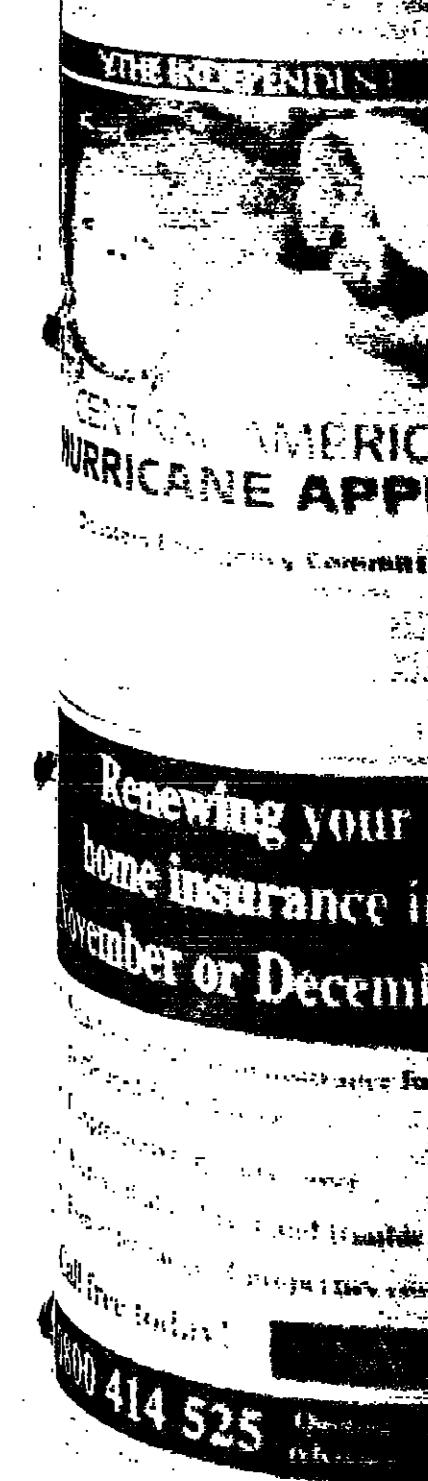
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F Protests mar Indonesia's fresh start

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"We w create o kets; if w knowledg ence has skills and best prat said. But

IN AN atmosphere of political tension and amid sporadic outbreaks of violence, the Indonesian parliament met yesterday for a special sitting intended to prepare the way for democratic elections and dismantling the oppressive apparatus of former President Suharto.

A senior member of Indonesia's ruling party said that the country's armed forces must give up the unelected parliamentary seats that they have held for the past 30 years. But the continuing power of the military was obvious as thousands of troops surrounded the national parliament building.

The 1,000 members of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) were meeting for the first time since last May when riots and demonstrations forced Mr Suharto to resign after 32 years in power. In several parts of Jakarta there were outbreaks of scuffling and stone-throwing, as crowds of angry protesters confronted bands of civilian thugs, tens of thousands of whom have been allowed into Jakarta to "keep order" during the four-day parliamentary session.

Some 30,000 troops have been deployed, supported by warships and a submarine off the coast, in the biggest show of military force since May.

But even as the military was flexing its muscles, MPR legislators were promising to reduce the armed forces'

its members, set its agenda and used it to legitimise a thinly disguised dictatorship.

"The problem with Indonesia today," as *The Jakarta Post* put it in an editorial this week, "is that it still depends on the MPR, a body filled with reactionary advocates of the status quo who do not represent the majority."

But many MPR members have spent the past six months busily distancing themselves from the old regime. "We are fully aware that our credibility is now down in the gutter," added Mr Darusman. "This has forced us to go all out to embrace the people's aspirations."



A soldier pushing back protesters after they stoned vigilante youths guarding Proclamation Park in Jakarta yesterday

Mojo Vida

Hard-liners defy Arafat peace policy

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

when the Israelis have given us back our land."

Of course, this is not the only reason for the new show of "unity" by Mr Arafat's enemies, among them George Habash of the PFLP and Nayef Hawatmeh of the DFLP.

Aware that the "peace process" is, to all intents and purposes, dead, Syria is preparing for a possible Palestinian doomsday by encouraging Mr Arafat's opponents to think seriously about the future.

The Palestinians in Damascus are usually good at ranting but short on ideas but they are now talking more coherently than usual.

After a meeting with the Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, said that "once a Palestinian state is established, we will be able to replace the charter with a constitution - but now is not the right time to do it."

Ramadan Abdullah Challah, the head of Islamic Jihad - two of whose members were responsible for last week's car bomb in Jerusalem - said that the Wye Agreement represented "the last step in the process launched by Arafat to annihilate the PLO and its institutions - which means the destruction of the Palestinian people".

If Mr Challah and his colleagues do not represent a majority of Palestinians - and since Arafat now runs roughshod over any semblance of democracy, it wouldn't matter if they did - the Damascus call for the PNC to keep the charter intact will appeal to many Palestinians who have never before given support to violence.

Even the Palestinian scholar Edward Said is calling for Palestinians to deter people from attending the PNC meeting that is intended to cancel part of the charter.

Of course, given the fact that Wye has not even begun to be implemented, there are Palestinians who say that the opposition groups in Damascus do not need to campaign against Mr Arafat any more - saying the whole "peace process" lies in tatters anyway.



INDEPENDENT

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 11 November

REF ID: 1520

FOREIGN NEWS/17

US starts banana war with Europe

THE SIMMERING dispute between the United States and Europe over banana imports exploded into open conflict yesterday as America threatened to start a trade war.

In a significant development, after months of tension, Washington proposed sanctions against a range of European products, expected to include Scotch whisky and French wine, and cheeses.

Brussels warned it would accuse the US through the World Trade Organisation, where it would appeal for compensation against any action, and demand the right to impose comparable sanctions.

Although extra duties on European goods could not be imposed for four months, EU officials are alarmed that the American action indicates a protectionist response to the global economic downturn.

The long-running dispute

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

involves the favoured nation status, granted by Europe under an international treaty, to banana imports from 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, (ACP) most of which are former European colonies.

Europe points out that, without such help, small producers will be undercut by the big mechanised plants in central America. Europe has long warned that removing aid to the Windward Islands in the Caribbean would devastate economies and increase the risk of growers turning to the production of drugs there as a substitute crop.

The United States is not a banana producer but has backed the case of multi-nationals, such as Chiquita, which argues that Latin American producers lose out and that EU

policy discourages diversification. The latest development revolves around a WTO ruling last year, which the EU says it has implemented through its latest import regulations.

Washington disputes that, claiming that the regime is still discriminatory, and argues that another appeal to the WTO would be time-consuming.

In all, the EU permits a limit of 857,000 tonnes of bananas to be imported free of duty from the ACP countries.

The list of products targeted by the USA yesterday will be reduced to a smaller number of items on December 15. Countries that favour the EU's banana regime, including Britain and France, are expecting to be singled out for particular attention and those not so enthusiastic, such as Germany, are likely to be left relatively untouched.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, accused Washington of "setting itself above the law" and adopting a "might is right" attitude. He warned: "If the US continues on this course it will inevitably risk damaging broader economic and political co-operation. For the US to take such unjustified action is a particularly grave error of judgement at a time when we both need to give strong, joint leadership in responding to the economic problems in the world."

Last month a US trade representative, Charlene Barabasiky, accused Brussels of failing to do enough to ease the world economic crisis. At the time Sir Leon said electoral considerations were behind the tough posture. Yesterday he said: "I believe this dispute is not really about bananas. What has been done has been done for political reasons."



A triumphant grin from Jennifer Smith, the leader of the Progressive Labour Party, in Hamilton, Bermuda, yesterday after winning parliamentary elections for the first time. Ms Smith will be the new premier AP

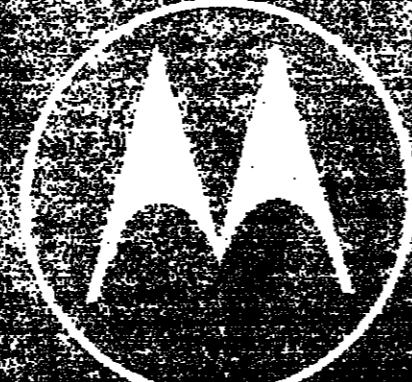
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AMERICAN TIMES WASHINGTON

Smiles leave too much to imagination

A PEACEFUL Saturday morning and the local Safeway is blissfully undersubscribed. Americans, at least in Washington, leave their weekend supermarket shopping until Sunday afternoon.

Free to peruse the margarines (or what passes for margarine under euphemisms such as "Promise" and "You Can't Tell It's Not Butter"), I am interrupted by a small lady in a red Safeway smock asking whether she can help. No, no, I'm fine, I tell her. "Can you find what you want?" she ventures again with a big smile. Yes, really.

In fact, help would be welcome, but not the sort of help that any shop assistant, even one with a PhD, could provide. There are a hundred details inscribed on every tub - "no-fat", "low-fat", nutrient contents running into several decimal points, but none of them tells me what the stuff actually contains. It could be sunflower oil, candle-grease or whale-blubber for all the label says.

At the cereals, where all the boxes are way too big for what is inside, I'm waylaid again. Another Safeway assistant, this time a young man, stops me. "Everything all right?" he asks. "Sure," I say, hoping the "American" reply will send him on his way.

But now I'm at the chaotic fruit and veg stands, contemplating the unwashed potatoes with apprehension - why can't this last word in service economies wash them and pack them in bags? I pick through the courgettes seeking out the rare unbruised ones. A smallish, oldish man approaches. A big smile: "You find everything?" he asks in almost unintelligible English.

Suppressing the wish to launch a diatribe about the disgraceful quality of vegetables compared with any self-respecting Sainsbury/Tesco/Waitrose, I wonder briefly whether I have not suffered a sudden age-change. So many people want to help.

In mid-worry, though, I am interrupted yet again. From behind the tomatoes, out pops the same red-overalled man, looks into my eyes (for heaven's sake, is it my perfume, perhaps?) and says he's pleased that I have found the courgettes. Perhaps I'd like some chicken, too? "Fried chicken - very good, better than home-made." I resist the temptation to snap back: "Who says?" and turn to accelerate my shopping before any more of these beaming gargoyles appear. What is this with Safeway?

Now supermarkets in the United States are dangerous places, with ever-fluctuating rules and a frisson of risk, even in genteel north-west Washington. You may get blackballed for taking your trolley to your car or for not taking it. There is the so-called "social Safeway" in Georgetown where "pick up



Richelle Roberts: Says she was propositioned

comfort of customers who recoil from chatty comments on their shopping habits is nothing compared with the torment of staff who find their management-dictated eye-contact smiles misinterpreted.

Inevitably - this is America - Safeway's smile policy is now headed for the courts. A dozen female assistants in California are suing the company, complaining that their smiles have led male customers to try their luck, make lewd remarks, even ask them out. One of the 12, Richelle Roberts, says she was repeatedly propositioned. Another said she was followed to her car.

With the lawsuit awaiting its turn in the courts, the Safeway smile has become a cause célèbre: everyone goes to the supermarket and everyone - on the Internet, in newspaper columns and in phone-ins - wants a say, including Safeway staff who just want to be able to turn the smile off once in a while without forfeiting their bonus or their job.

So far, sentiment is running 50-50, with Safeway insisting that its own correspondence is 90 per cent in favour.

At my local branch, though, corporate ardour may be cooling. This weekend, I overheard a young man somewhere behind the organic mushrooms instructing a junior colleague to "remember that smile", but the gargoyle grins are fading. So, if you - as I do - prefer not to make your shopping a communal experience, stop being irritated by that cheery American-style "Have a nice day" when you pass the supermarket check-out. It could have been much, much worse.

MARY DEJEVSKY

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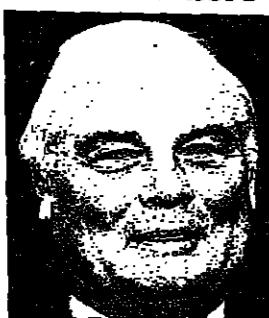
BUSINESS

BRIEFING

New-look Ofcom dials into action

A "NEW-LOOK" Ofcom yesterday began operations after David Edmonds, the director-general, unveiled the full details of the telecoms watchdog's reorganisation. Ofcom's 10-branch system has been replaced by two operational directorates, backed by a business support directorate. Ofcom said the regulatory policy directorate, under Ann Taylor, would take responsibility for developing the UK's framework to protect consumers and encourage competition, while the compliance directorate, under Jane Whittles, will handle complaints and enforce licence conditions. Mr Edmonds' deputy, Anne Lambert, will oversee both directorates as director of operations.

Sea Containers docks with £13m



JAMES SHERWOOD, president of Sea Containers, yesterday reported good demand in Asia and positive signs for world trade as the Bermudan-based transport group unveiled a 35 per cent rise on the year in net third-quarter earnings to \$21m (£13m).

Mr Sherwood (pictured) said visits to Asia revealed a rather different position than had been reported in the financial press, with China's economy poised for good growth this year, while there was no sign of weakness in international container trade or tourism from Japan. Revenue at the group's passenger transport and ports arm in the UK rose 9 per cent, with profits at its cross-Channel ferry services rising to \$7.5m from \$4m a year earlier.

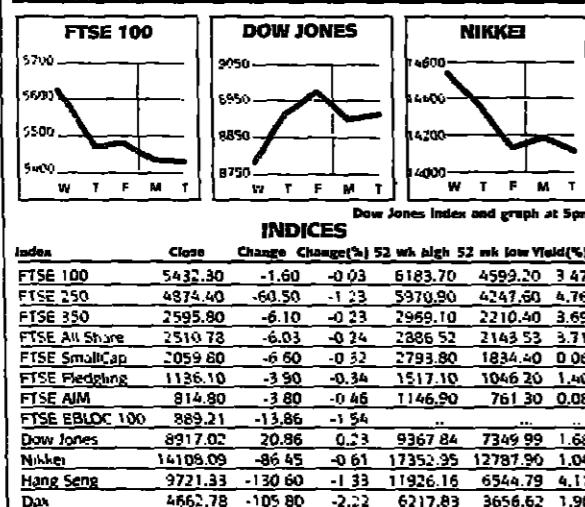
Mr Sherwood said a contract had been signed to acquire another ferry business, but the deal would be confidential until it closed. GNER, its UK rail business, is expecting a Government decision on franchise extension which, if favourable, will trigger a £300m (£180m) investment in rolling stock and improvements.

Business Post falls to £8.8m

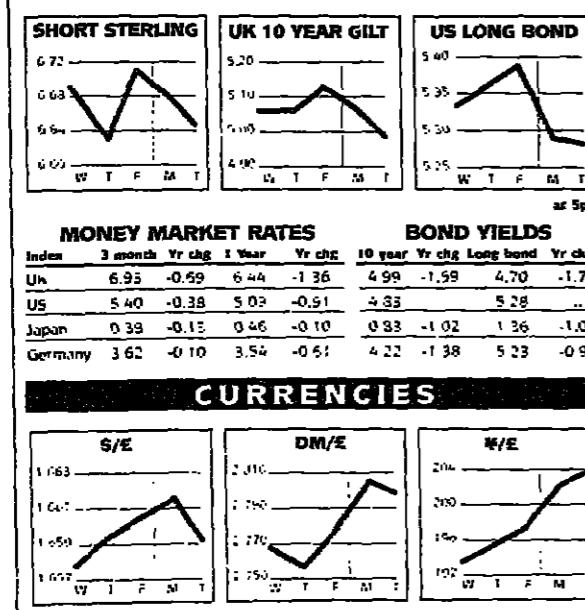
BUSINESS POST founder and chief executive, Peter Kane, gave his first profit figures since replacing Mick Jones as head of the UK parcel and mail delivery company. Announcing a 6 per cent fall in profits to £8.8m, which Mr Kane attributed to a 33 per cent rise in operating costs, he vowed to "tighten up manning levels".

The company's share price – which has fallen by 64 per cent since its May peak of 957.5p – closed marginally up yesterday at 345p.

STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES



OTHER INDICATORS

Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Rep
Brent Oil (\$)	11.07	0.13	18.78	GEPI	115.95	3.00
Gold (\$)	292.70	-0.05	310.00	RPI	164.40	3.20
Silver (\$)	5.00	0.01	4.67	Base Rates	0.75	7.35
Euro	100.80	-0.10	102.70	S Index	107.00	+0.40
Pound	1.653	-0.001	1.662
Dollar	1.6531	+0.16	1.6273	Sterling	0.5027	-0.06
D-Mark	2.7952	-0.006	2.8938	DM	1.61	-0.17
Yen	103.55	-0.12	121.14	Yen	122.83	+0.80
Euro	100.80	-0.10	102.70	S Index	107.00	+0.40
Pound	1.653	-0.001	1.662
Dollar	1.6531	+0.16	1.6273	Sterling	0.5027	-0.06
D-Mark	2.7952	-0.006	2.8938	DM	1.61	-0.17
Yen	103.55	-0.12	121.14	Yen	122.83	+0.80
Euro	100.80	-0.10	102.70	S Index	107.00	+0.40

www.bloomberg.com /uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2,5497	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.00
Austria (schillings)	19.09	Netherlands (guilder)	3.0537
Belgium (francs)	56.15	Norway (krone)	12.14
Canada (\$)	2,4867	Portugal (escudos)	275.82
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7999	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0413
Denmark (kroner)	10.40	Singapore (\$)	2.6172
Finland (marks)	8.3184	Spain (pesetas)	230.26
France (francs)	9.1120	South Africa (rand)	8.2200
Germany (marks)	2.7270	Sweden (krona)	12.88
Greece (drachma)	458.26	Switzerland (francs)	2,2579
Hong Kong (\$)	12.45	Thailand (baht)	55.73
Ireland (pounds)	1.0902	Turkey (lira)	467527
India (rupees)	63.07	USA (\$)	1.6209
Israel (shekels)	6.5007		
Italy (lira)	2701		
Japan (yen)	199.90		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0601		
Malta (lira)	0.6055		

Thomas Cook

Booker crisis looms as shares hit 16-year low

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE PROBLEMS at Booker, the struggling cash-and-carry group, reached new depths yesterday when the company issued the latest in a series of profits warnings, scrapped its final dividend and warned that it was in danger of breaching its banking covenants.

Booker shares lost almost half their value on the news, closing at a 16-year low of 64.5p.

The shock warning followed a strategic review by the new chief executive, Stuart Rose, who joined in September. He blamed weaker-than-expected sales at the core cash-and-carry business, lower margins and higher costs related to distribution changes.

In an obvious swipe at former management, Mr Rose said previous expectations of the group's prospects were "clearly overoptimistic".

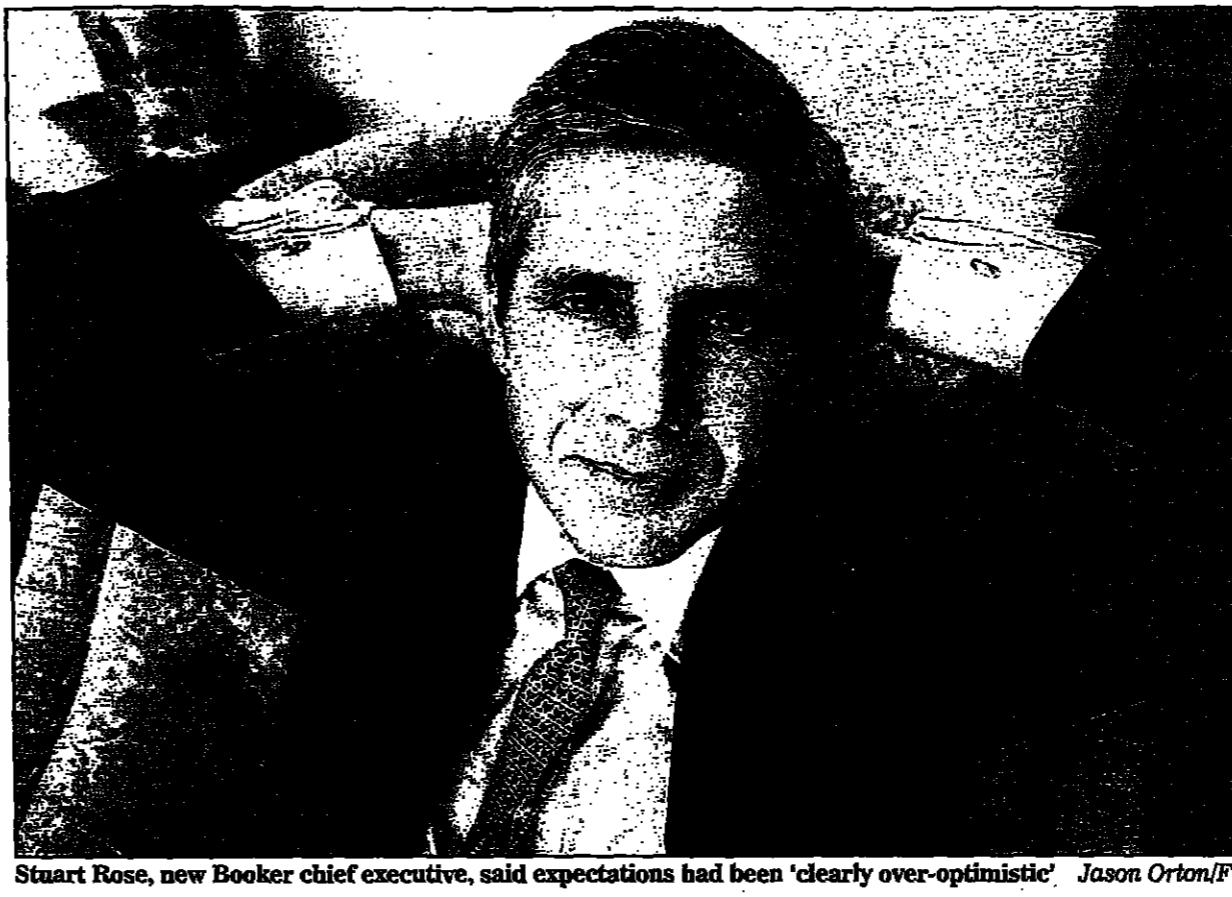
Adrian Busby, the head of Booker's cash-and-carry chain, has left the company with immediate effect. He was on a two-year contract and will be in line for compensation of up to £220,000. Mr Rose will take on direct responsibility for the division.

Mr Busby's departure means Booker now has just two executive directors, Mr Rose and John Kitson, the finance director. Analysts said that if management resources were not so thin, Mr Kitson's position would also be under threat.

Mr Rose denied that he had bitten off more than he could chew by taking on Booker. "It's certainly a bigger bite than I thought, but I think we can make a go of it," he said.

He admitted that Booker's management team was now "stretching" following the latest boardroom departure. The company is now searching for new directors, he said.

Analysts reacted with despair to the latest warning.



Stuart Rose, new Booker chief executive, said expectations had been 'clearly over-optimistic'. Jason Orton/FT

BOOKER'S TALE OF WOE

- 7 January 1998: Booker's first profits warning of the year.
- 17 March: Charles Bowen, chief executive, resigns after second profits warning.
- 17 August: Somerfield reveals it is in merger talks with Booker. It later pulls out amidst rumours of poor trading.

- 7 September: Budgens says it is in talks with Booker about a reverse takeover. These talks also break down as Booker shares continue to slide. Booker denies there are problems with its banking covenants.
- 28 September: Stuart Rose, the former Argos boss, is appointed chief executive, heralding the

- departure of long-standing chairman Jonathan Taylor.
- 10 November: Another profits warning is issued, and the head of the cash-and-carry chain leaves. The full-year dividend is scrapped. The company admits that it is in prospective breach of its banking covenants.

which forced them to reduce their full-year profit forecasts from £55m to £22m. "It is pretty extraordinary to produce this warning ahead of the company's peak (Christmas) trading season," one analyst said. "The final figures could be even worse if Christmas falls below expectations."

Another analyst said: "This is a disaster. It just smacks of no management controls, no idea of what sales figures are doing, nor what costs are making."

In response to the growing crisis in the company, which was spurned in merger talks by both Somerfield and Budgens in the summer, Mr Rose plans to dispose of the wholesale food business. He will also examine the role of the food service division, which supplies catering businesses.

Overheads will be significantly reduced with the closure of the head office in London. This will affect up to 50 jobs, although there will be redundancies across the company. Investment in Booker's in-

ternational operations will be stopped for the foreseeable future.

The collapse of Booker's share price means the company is now worth only around £150m. But analysts said they regarded a bid as unlikely until it is clear that Booker has begun to resolve its problems.

Outlook, page 19

CBI predicts hard times for manufacturing sector

BY LEA PATERSON

THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY yesterday warned that the manufacturing sector was on the brink of recession, with companies in the North-east worst hit by the economic slowdown.

Manufacturers in all regions of the UK experienced falls in demand and output over the last four months, and most are gloomy about prospects for the remainder of the year, according to the latest CBI/Business Strategies survey of regional trends. Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, said: "If expectations are borne out, that would suggest we are entering a manufacturing recession."

Andy Schofield, senior economist at the consultancy Business Strategies, said: "These results confirm that no region is immune, with falls in output, demand and prices all contributing to ebbing confidence."

Over the past four months, manufacturing output in six regions – the North, Yorkshire and the Humber, the Southwest, the North-west, Wales and Northern Ireland – fell by the sharpest rate since 1991.

Mr Junankar said: "Further falls in orders and sharply falling confidence levels reflect the continuing battle manufacturers face."

Looking ahead, the outlook for manufacturing remains

bleak. Over the next four months, manufacturers in all 11 regions believe output and employment will fall. Firms in 10 regions expect to reduce plant and machinery investment, with only manufacturers in Wales expecting to maintain current investment levels.

Confidence among manufacturers in the North – one of the worst hit regions – has slumped to levels last seen at the end of 1990. Most manufacturers, however, are less gloomy about exports, after recent falls in the pound.

The CBI said: "The fall in the level of sterling against the mark was reflected by a less pronounced decline in confidence. The proportion of firms citing prices as a constraint on exports dropped in half over the UK regions."

Last week's cut in interest rates was a "glimmer of light" for UK manufacturers, according to Mr Junankar.

He raised doubts about the Government's latest forecasts, which predict the UK economy will grow between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent in 1999. Mr Junankar said: "They seem to be a little on the optimistic side."

Outlook, page 19

M&S speeds up succession

BY NIGEL COPE

Battle to
control
Lonrho
Africa
heats up

What lurks in Booker's woodshed?

JUST WHEN everyone thinks it can't possibly get any worse at Booker, it does. Never a company to let a month drift by without a profit warning, the hapless cash and carry group treated the market to a corker of a stock exchange announcement yesterday. It had just about everything.

There was the scrapping of the dividend, the pointed remarks about "over-optimistic expectations" by previous management, a boardroom departure, the threat of job cuts and even the possible breach of its banking covenants. It was a full "kitchen sink" job.

And perhaps this is the point. Stuart Rose has only been Booker's chief executive for about six weeks. Like a new manager at a football club, he has the opportunity to size everything up, decide what he doesn't like and justifiably throw it overboard whilst blaming it all on his predecessors. Coming this early in his tenure, Mr Rose cannot be held responsible for a further plunge in profits.

Even so the scale of it is quite breathtaking and questions must be asked about why the market was not alerted before. It is only a matter of weeks since Jonathan Taylor,



OUTLOOK

the erstwhile Booker chairman, was insisting that there was no black hole in Booker's accounts and that the company was not in danger of breaching its banking covenants. He was speaking after first Somerfield and then Budgens had run away from the idea of merging with Booker. Neither company said exactly why it had taken flight but the implication at least one case was that something nasty had been found in the woodshed.

One has to wonder why Mr Taylor and his finance director, John Kitson, failed to notice it.

Trading has undoubtedly got tougher in the last few weeks, as re-tailers like Marks & Spencer and

Boots have said, but surely not by this scale of magnitude.

All of this leaves Booker in a pretty sorry state. It has just two executive directors, including Mr Kitson, and a business that seems to be heading south at a rate of knots. Mr Rose is faced with the task of exiting a number of businesses while trying to revitalise the core chain. After this long in the doldrums and dogged by takeover and merger speculation, divisional management must be completely demoralised.

But as this column has argued before, Mr Rose ought to be able to do something with a business with sales of more than £5bn. The previous management invested heavily in the business in their final years, and barring a collapse in consumer spending that should start to pay off. But it will be a long road back and if there are any upsets from now on, Mr Rose will have no one else to blame.

Stock markets

CALLING THE bottom of a market is as difficult as spotting its peak. This column had the stock market, as

tracked by the FTSE100 index, bottoming at 4,200. In fact, the low point came on 5 October at 4,848.7, which all goes to show, it never pays to be greedy. With the benefit of hindsight, it is possible to see two events as establishing a convincing floor beneath Western share prices.

The first was the Federal Reserve's rescue of Long Term Capital Management. From the start, on 17 July, the bear market was more an internalised response to the financial contagion spreading from the developing world than anything else.

In this respect it was quite unlike most previous corrections, which tend to be caused by a build up of inflationary pressures, an increase in interest rates, and a consequent reduction in credit and liquidity.

The collapse of LTCM threatened to turn this contagion into financial armageddon. Imagine what might have happened. The enforced liquidation of a \$200bn portfolio would have moved the market dramatically further against the herd who had been following similar trading strategies. There would have been multiple bankruptcies and an undreamt of erosion of capital throughout the Western banking system.

Our own prediction of 4,200 for the

index might have looked optimistic in the extreme.

The second piece of life support also came from the US Federal Reserve - a second cut in US interest rates. Although only a quarter point, the unscheduled nature of the cut nonetheless sent an important message to markets. Alan Greenspan and other policy makers were not entirely asleep at the wheel after all, but were still capable of decisive action.

Even so, the subsequent bounce in the market has taken even the most bullish commentators by surprise. The FTSE100 index has recovered more than half its fall and as things stand, it's up 6 per cent on the year as a whole. Recovery in the FTSE mid cap has been more cautious, while the small cap index remains way below both its peak and its starting level for the year. But, on average, even these companies have shown a considerable recovery since the market bottomed.

The bounce in the US has been more spectacular still, with the Standard & Poor's composite now back to within spitting distance of its peak. As far as Western stock markets are concerned, then, it is almost as if the crisis of the late summer never happened. We all know that markets are

prone to exaggeration, to bouts of panic both on the up and downside.

Despite the sophistication of modern analysis and trading systems, markets remain the creature of primeval psychologies - fear and greed. Traders move in herds, perhaps more so now that so many of them are not genuine investors than ever before, panicking the market down one month only to drive it up the next for fear of missing their turn.

This in itself is a good reason for remaining suspicious of the present recovery. Plainly we are now in much calmer waters than we have been. And it no longer appears likely that a big player in financial markets is about to go bust, causing a fresh bout of panic. On the other hand, the economic fundamentals don't seem to have changed very much.

The UK economy is slowing rapidly; the US and the rest of Europe cannot be too far behind.

As yesterday's regional trends survey shows, the recession in manufacturing is about to become official. A full recession across the whole economy still seems unlikely, but it would be unwise to bet that way. For investors, caution must remain the order of the day. That is not to say that all the bargains have gone, but the

mean to guarantee victory.



Dr John Padfield, chief executive of biotech firm Chiroscience. "The idea of clusters is an excellent one. In theory"

Keith Dobney

Bringing heads together

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE BRITISH equivalent of California's Silicon Valley is a long way away from the brash and boastful character of its American counterpart. Forget the grand buildings and the Californian-style freeways, the gateway to the hub of the UK's hi-tech industry is a small slip road off the A1309 Milton Road.

Thirty yards away, a modest roundabout with a small green sign finally tells you where you are. Welcome to Cambridge Science Park, 130 acres of research courtesy of Cambridge University's Trinity College, the landlord, and 4,500 scientists, suits and sandwich ladies.

With over 70 firms, the park is the largest concentration of information technology and drug development companies in the country and one of the biggest in Europe. It is also a model "cluster", the government's new-found instrument to inject efficiency and entrepreneurial spirit into UK plc. According to "clustering" theories, the physical proximity of hi-tech businesses at an early stage of the development of their products encourages collaboration and helps them survive the difficult start-up years.

The government is so keen on clusters that the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, is set to make them a key part of New Labour's industrial policy in a white paper on competitiveness to be published next month. Mr Mandelson is said to have been very impressed by the idea during a recent visit to Silicon Valley and plans to trigger a "cluster explosion" in the UK over the coming years.

Scottish Enterprise, the development agency, has been among the first to move, by appointing Bob Downes, one of its top officials, to the brand-new post of "head of clusters".

But do clusters such as

Cambridge Science Park work?

And can they live up to the government's dream of being efficiency-enhancing islands of research and development?

Most of the tenants of Cambridge Science Park do not buy the government's rhetoric. John Padfield, the chief executive of Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest and most successful biotechnology companies, is a classic example of a dissatisfied cluster customer.

Dr Padfield's company has spent more than six years in the Cambridge cluster and is now moving to a different site south of the city because it feels the park has failed to deliver on its promises. His complaints highlight one of the key issues for present and future clusters.

If business groupings are to succeed, physical closeness is not enough. To spur rival firms into interacting business parks must foster a "sense of community" which encourages people to share ideas.

"The idea of clusters is an excellent idea in theory, but if someone asked me 'Has Cambridge Science Park created a community or is it just a phys-

ical collection of people?' I would have to reply 'latter'."

In the experience of Dr Padfield and many other executives, the famed interaction with other firms has been close to nothing and the benefits of pooling resources and bouncing ideas off each other is almost non-existent.

Part of the problem is in the lack of common facilities where the mingling between the cluster's inhabitants can take place. The lesson that future developments will have to learn from Cambridge is that scientists need to be dragged away from their laboratories by the lure of common amenities. In the Cambridge Park these are conspicuous by their absence.

With its low-rise buildings

nestling among hills and lakes, the park looks more like a elderly people's holiday camp than a thriving centre of business development. Walking around the park at lunchtime is a bit like taking a stroll in the Sahara. There is only one restaurant and conference hall, the Trinity Centre, which is regarded as totally inadequate by

most tenants. One executive said he would be "embarrassed" to bring his customers there. The companies have complained to Trinity and the college has launched a major multimillion pound plan to build a new conference centre and health club by the Millennium.

This should drag the boffins

out of their shells and should help fulfil the park's potential, according to its supporters.

They point to a number of other advantages brought about by clustering. First, the use of common suppliers for things such as technical equipment and building maintenance triggered sizeable cost-savings for the park's tenants. More importantly, cluster enthusiasts believe that having a hi-tech grouping with close geographical and financial links to a hotbed of research such as Cambridge University is a major drive in staff recruitment.

Stephen Ingilis, the research director at Cantab Pharmaceuticals, another leading biotech firm, says that the eight years spent at the park "have been great".

"There is a warm glow associated with a company which is linked to Cambridge and is next to the University. Being here gave us the credibility to attract the right-quality people,"

John Brown, the chief executive of Peptide Therapeutics, agrees.

"Cambridge is a great attraction for the kind of people we want to employ. They like to work here because they like the hi-tech culture".

Dr Ingilis believes that, although Cambridge Park has been going for almost 30 years, it needs more time to bear fruit. "There is a tremendous wealth of knowledge and this coalescence of interest will create its own momentum."

Being able to attract the country's best brains is a powerful selling point. But if the Cambridge experience is anything to go by, even that advantage could be jeopardised by poor infrastructure.

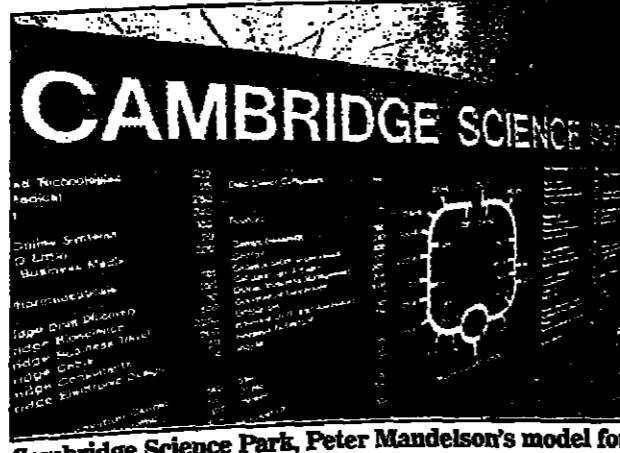
Colin Webb, the head of European development at the US biotech giant Amgen, said that headhunters told him that potential applicants for one of the company's positions had been put off by the park's location. Traffic is one of the location's biggest drawbacks.

The consensus among the park's workers is that peak-hour congestion, when most of them get to work, is horrendous and makes entering and exiting the park a harrowing experience.

One worker said that it takes him 45 minutes, on average, to leave the site every evening - hardly the kind of lifestyle to endeavour the park to the UK's best scientists.

Staff can also be deterred by high house prices in the city, which are partly due to the presence of the park.

As one executive put it: "Nobody knows whether clusters work, but the clear lesson from Cambridge is that they certainly do not work when the infrastructure is not right."



Cambridge Science Park, Peter Mandelson's model for a British 'cluster explosion'

British executives fall short in fat-cat league

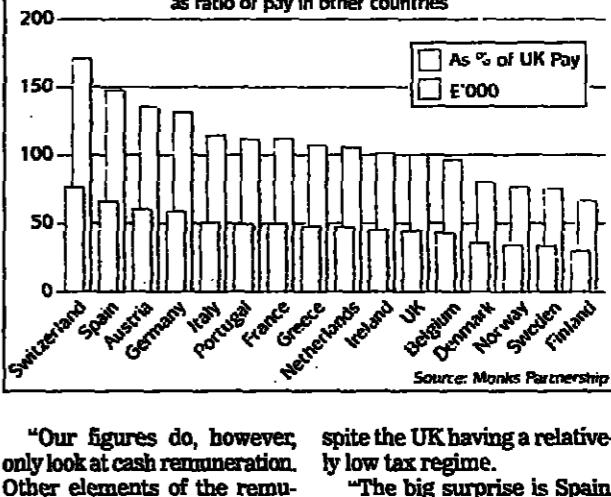
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE WIDESPREAD idea that UK executives are overpaid fat cats took a knock yesterday when Monks Partnership, a remuneration consultancy, published a league table showing that British directors are paid around 30 per cent less than their counterparts in Germany, Austria, Spain and Switzerland.

The UK is ranked at only 11th place out of 16 countries, after taking into account pay after tax and the cost of living in each country. The Monks Partnership, an independent consultancy based in Saffron Walden, Essex, surveyed non-Board directors working for companies with an average turnover of £50m.

The survey shows that British directors in this category are roughly level with those in Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Greece, France, Portugal and Italy. In contrast, Scandinavian directors' pay is 75 per cent of UK pay levels.

Tony Vernon-Harcourt, the chairman of Monks Partnership, said: "Based on our data, the pay of a director of a £50m subsidiary company is at a broadly similar level to pay in seven out of 15 other western European countries.



"Our figures do, however, only look at cash remuneration. Other elements of the remuneration package such as pension or share options, which are both complex to value, may affect the director's overall position," he said.

For instance, cash salaries tend to be a lot higher in Germany than in the UK, but share options are only just being introduced on the Continent, whereas such options have been commonplace in Britain for more than a decade.

Mr Vernon-Harcourt added that the strong pound has probably affected the figures, driving the UK's cost of living up, despite the UK having a relatively low tax regime.

"The big surprise is Spain, which has really shot up the rankings", he said. "Switzerland, Germany and Austria have always tended to be on top, ever since we started doing the league tables in 1988."

He also said that what may be broadly true about pay for directors of a £50m subsidiary may not be true of a parent company. There was also considerably less disclosure about executive pay on the Continent. The only country which approached the UK's openness on this subject was Holland. Mr Vernon-Harcourt said.

PRODUCT RECALL

TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER 55g JAR

The British Pepper & Spice Co Limited is taking the precautionary measure of recalling a small batch of their product that is sold as TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER because of suspected microbiological contamination.

This recall ONLY affects the black peppercorns supplied in Tesco 55g jars priced at £1.54. NO OTHER PEPPER TYPE, PEPPER PACK OR PEPPER REFILL IS AFFECTED.

The recalled product is contained in a 55g glass jar with a black plastic cap, and the code 8296 (followed by any other letters/numbers) is printed in yellow/green ink on the rim of the cap.

The date code for the product is Best Before End Oct. 2000.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Customers who have purchased the above product should return it to the Customer Service Desk at the most convenient Tesco store for a full refund.

Tesco apologise for any inconvenience caused.

For further information, please contact:

The British Pepper & Spice Co Ltd
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Weinberg attacks IFAs' commission

SIR MARK WEINBERG, one of the leading architects of financial regulation in the UK, yesterday launched a blistering attack on independent financial advisers, accusing them of an inherent conflict of interest which misleads clients and restricts competition.

In a lecture to the Linked Life Assurance Group in London, Sir Mark said financial regulations were working against

BY ANDREW VERTIY

the interests of millions of policyholders who were wrongly led to believe the advice they were getting was independent.

Sir Mark, who designed key parts of the 1986 Financial Services Act, said the independence of financial advisers (IFAs) was compromised by the level of commission they received for selling an insurer's products.

"I cannot think of a greater conflict of interest ... An IFA would not recommend an Equitable Life term assurance policy even if its rates were the lowest of the market - nor would he recommend a Virgin tracker fund unit trust," Sir Mark said.

He accused networks of independent advisers of using their marketing muscle to negotiate higher commissions

from the life offices whose products they sell.

"The people who run the networks will put their hands on their hearts and say that they choose the life companies purely on merit and without consideration of the commission rates offered ... Their position can only be described as one of a conflict of interest and a pretty fundamental conflict at that."

"I just do not believe that, if a particular life company produced a highly competitive product and kept its commission from a life company which passes on the cost in the form of higher charges to the policyholder."

Independent financial advisers usually take commission from a life company which passes on the cost in the form of higher charges to the policyholder.

The higher the commission they charge, the poorer the policy benefits.

Sir Mark is now calling for a shake-up of regulations which would bar IFAs from calling themselves independent unless they refuse to take commission.

Jim Gaskin, managing director of Countrywide, one of the largest networks of IFAs, said: "It is sad Sir Mark is long on rhetoric and short on fact. Many of my members sell Equitable Life and National Savings policies and one of the most recommended offices is Standard Life - which doesn't pay the highest commission."

Women win in public sector pay

BY LEA PATERSON

THE PUBLIC sector pays better than the private sector, with women faring particularly well, according to a study released yesterday.

However, "Public Pay in the 1990s", a report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), finds that the differential between public sector and private sector pay has narrowed over the last two decades, largely because of structural changes in the economy such as privatisation and declining union coverage.

Women, especially those with school-leaving qualifications - that is, O-levels/GCSEs - do best out of working in the public sector.

The report finds that women working in the civil service earn 25 per cent more than private-sector counterparts, while women working in the National Health Service and higher education earn a "public sector wage premium" of more than 8 per cent.

Overall, men in the public sector earn roughly the same as their private-sector counterparts. Fifteen years ago, the public-private sector wage differential for men was 6 per cent.

Other losers in the public sector are men and women with no qualifications. Unqualified men in the public sector now earn the same as private-sector counterparts, according to the study. In 1983, they earned a wage premium of just less than 5 per cent.

Public sector workers tend to fare better in recessions than those in the private sector, but do worse during economic booms when private sector pay rises faster than does public sector pay.

In the early 1980s women in the public sector earned 16 per cent more than those in the private sector.

The authors of the report -

Richard Disney, Alissa Goodman, Amanda Gosling and Chris Tinder - say: "Women seem to do rather better in the public sector than in the private sector, which we believe stems from the wider range of occupations available in the public sector to women with school-leaving qualifications, such as teaching and nursing."

The study found that highly-qualified men fare poorly in the public sector. Male degree holders in the public sector earn 6 per cent less than private-sector counterparts, while men working in the national health service and higher education pay a "public sector wage penalty" of more than 8 per cent.

Overall, men in the public sector earn roughly the same as their private-sector counterparts. Fifteen years ago, the public-private sector wage differential for men was 6 per cent.

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Public sector workers tend to fare better in recessions than those in the private sector, but do worse during economic booms when private sector pay rises faster than does public sector pay.

STANDARD LIFE, the UK's second-biggest life insurer, mounted a challenge to the City's big independent fund managers yesterday when it launched a new investment house to manage £60bn, writes Andrew Verti.

The new subsidiary, Standard Life Investments, will compete with managers such as Mercury Asset Management and Morgan Grenfell,

and is aiming to manage £100bn within five years. The group will begin by managing Standard Life's existing funds, which hold shares amounting to 2 per

cent of the UK equity market. It will also aim at a 5 per cent share of the retail investment market, managing money for private investors. Standard Life said it had

"aggressive plans" to challenge established fund managers, such as bidding for contracts to run hundreds of millions of pounds at a time for big pension funds.

Sandy Crombie, the chief executive of the new company, claimed the insurer had already outperformed established fund managers in the market to run pooled pension funds on behalf of small and medium-sized companies.

The company, which has

taken four years to organise, will have a staff of 500, most based in Edinburgh with 30 in Montreal, Canada.

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The authors of the report -

Standard Life launches £60bn investment house

BY ANDREW VERTI

WOOLWICH LEFT the estate agency market yesterday when it sold a network of 167 branches to Alick Smith, the property entrepreneur, at a £9m loss.

The mortgage bank sold its business for £23m to Winterthur Life, one of its financial services partners, which immediately sold it on to Mr Smith, chairman of Spicer McColl, the independent chain of estate agents.

The sale allows Woolwich to exit a market dominated by smaller agents, which have struggled to make a profit when the housing market is slow.

Spicer McColl, a 104-branch chain before the deal, was founded by Mr Smith and his son Paul in 1993. Spicer will continue to introduce new mortgage business to the Woolwich through a link with Winterthur.

A Woolwich spokesman said: "We have always made it fairly clear that the main reason for being in estate agency is that it is a good source of business. From our point of view we are confident that we can maintain that. Now we have effectively got the business without the cost of running it."

Woolwich entered estate agency in 1987 and expanded its network in 1991 when it bought 180 branches from Prudential. It has since scaled back its network in an effort to cut costs.

The sale follows similar moves by Abbey National and Lloyds, which each sold estate agencies built up in the late 1980s. The businesses tend to have high overheads and can struggle to make a profit when the housing market is slow.

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 2,372					
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Utilities rescue struggling Footsie

SHARES IN Marston Thompson & Evershed, brewer of one of the nation's most renowned traditional beers, were in a rare old ferment as rumours of a takeover bid swirled around.

The price rose 26p to 198.5p in brisk trading, with stories circulating that Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries could be planning a 300p-a-share strike.

A merger would make sense in the highly competitive brewing industry. Both Marston and Wolves have felt the impact of the brewing upheaval, which has relegated regional brewers to the poor relations of the drinks industry.

The shares of the two have seen better days. Marston was 360p in the summer; Wolves, unchanged at 415p, touched 355p in June and 705p last year. Clearly a deal to change market perception of the groups would be well received. It would create the country's biggest regional brewer with almost 2,000 pubs.

Marston, famed for its Pedigree bitter, is talking to Nomura, the Japanese bank, about securitising its tenanted pubs. It is unclear just how near the talks are to reaching

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

agreement or whether Wolves, the bigger of the two, was stirred into action by the proposed deal.

Marston's attempt to join the market's pub bandwagon has caused it some discomfort. It overpaid for the Pitcher & Piano chain, splashing out nearly 220m. Its plan to roll out the concept nationally has proved difficult to realise.

With brewing groups giving up beer production to concentrate on retailing, the beer is in turmoil. Vaux, the Sunderland group, is abandoning brewing to run its

Swallow hotels chain and upmarket pub and has put its two breweries and 350 bottom-of-the-barrel pubs on the market. Director Frank Nicholson is attempting a buyout, but is thought to be finding it difficult to get the necessary support.

Utilities rescued Footsie. At one time it was down 74.4 points, but the privatised groups strengthened as the day progressed and briefly, just before the close, the index achieved a chunk of blue before ending 1.6 down at 5,432.3. Supporting shares ran out of steam, with the mid cap off 60.5 at 4,874.4 and the small cap off 6.6 at 2,058.8.

Serena Trent was the best-performing Footsie constituent, up 60p to 1,090p. Thames Water, 40p at 1,165p, and United Utilities, 24p at 885p, were among others in form as Crédit Lyonnais said the water sector was undervalued. British Energy, National Grid and National Power also made headway.

Woolwich, the mortgage bank, performed in a mixed banking sector. The shares rose 6.5p to 366.5p, putting another touch to the sort of graph (see illustration) which excites chart followers. The graph,

some say, foreshadows corporate action.

The Scottish banks remained friendless. Royal Bank of Scotland fell 34p to 783p and Bank of Scotland 25p to 529p. The two have been

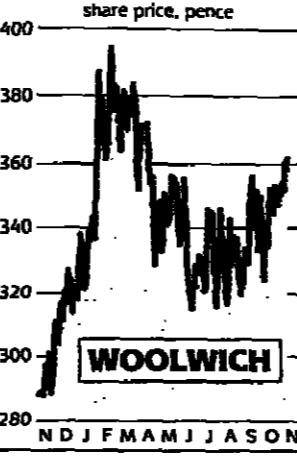
THE ELECTRONIC share dealing revolution continues. Posit, a computerised trading system, is due to be launched next Wednesday. The execution-only stockbroker matches trades twice a day and it should clinch its first deals at its morning fixing.

Posit is a joint venture between Société Générale, the French bank, and Investment Technology of the US. Posit has already achieved a significant presence in the US.

subjected to analysts' caution.

BT gained 9p to 831p, with Merrill Lynch making positive noises. Speculation is growing that the group could hand to shareholders some proceeds from the sale of its 20 per cent interest in MCI.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Datamore

Woolwich

wine and spirit operations over the next five years.

Blacks Leisure, the sportswear retailer, remained in the takeover spotlight, gaining a further 17.5p to 271.5p. Celtic, the Glasgow football

have already walked away from the struggling group. Iceland rose 10.5p to 226p following its home shopping move; it expects to offer a food shopping service through digital television next summer.

Retailers were ruffled by a gloomy British Retail Consortium survey. Storehouse, also under pressure from CSFE, fell 7.5p to 168p and Next 23.5p to 490p.

BICC, the cables and construction group, was little changed at 55.5p following Monday's analysts meeting. Henderson Crosthwaite put a 120p sum of the parts valuation on the shares and said buy.

Porvair, the materials group, slumped 92.5p to 146.5p after warning of losses. RJB Mining fell 4.5p to 55.5p, a new low. The market is fretting about the possibility of the group encountering a miners' strike - the first since the 1980s. National Union of Mineworkers officials meet tomorrow to discuss action after failing to reach a pay and conditions deal with RJB.

SEAO VOLUME: 855.6 million
SEAO TRADES: 58,191
GILT INDEX: 111.45 +0.60

Full power from CWC boosts sales and profits

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

CABLE & WIRELESS COMMS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £7.10bn, share price 475p (+15p)

	1997	1998
Half year to 30 Sept		
Turnover (£m)	1,103	1,257
Pre-tax profits (£m)	65	73
Earnings per share (p)	4.5	5.0
Dividends per share (p)	NIL	NIL
Revenue analysis		
£m: six months ending 30 Sept		
Direct Telephony	1997	1998
Indirect Telephony	1997	1998
Television	1997	1998
Business Markets	1997	1998
Corporate Markets	1997	1998
International Partner & Service	1997	1998
Source: Datastream		

Brands reward Dairy Crest

DAIRY CREST, the former processing arm of the old Milk Marketing Board, has performed well since coming to the stock market two years ago. Fleeted at 155p, the shares now stand at 322p, up 7.5p yesterday.

Although this is off their spring peak, the shares have outperformed the market by around 30 per cent since flotation. The City likes the management and its strategy, and yesterday's half-year figures provided more evidence that John Houlston, the chief executive, is getting it right.

Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £20.7m and margins jumped from 5 to 5.6 per cent as Dairy Crest continues to shift its focus towards higher-margin, added-value ranges. These products, such as Cathedral City mature cheddar, Yoplait

yogurt and Clover spreads, now account for 40 per cent of sales and two-thirds of profits. The strategy is to edge those figures higher through organic expansion and acquisitions, such as February's £65m takeover of Raine Dairy Products.

Dairy Crest is backing its top brands with increased advertising spends, which are paying dividends. The extra frit put behind Cathedral City cheddar lifted sales by 7 per cent in a market up just 2 per cent overall. Clover spread, which retails at a premium to rivals such as Utterly Butterly, benefited from a £2m television campaign and its market share is growing.

On a broader front the dairy market is tough, but Dairy Crest's brands should give it some muscle against the might of the supermarkets.

The business may benefit from the inevitable consolidation of this sector but, even without a big shakeout, it looks

well placed to make further progress.

On full-year forecasts of £45.5m the shares trade on a forward multiple of 11. That is only in line with the sector, where a premium to the more commodity-based players such as Express Dairies and Robert Wiseman is justified. Good value.

Downturn test for Newsquest

NEWSQUEST, England's largest regional and local newspaper publisher, has suffered badly during the market turbulence of the past three months. Although yesterday's third-quarter profit announcement was better than expected - profits increased by 48 per cent to £14.5m - investor faith has still to be renewed. The share price is still 27 per cent below its July peak of 340p.

Because the publication of local newspapers is Newsquest's core activity, it relies on advertising for the bulk of its revenues. Most analysts believe that, if there were a significant downturn in the economy, Newsquest's earnings from recruitment ads - 20 per cent of its overall advertising revenue - would be badly hit, with its operations outside London and the South east most affected.

Analysts are sticking to forecasts of profits of 55m for the full year and earnings of 22.5p per share. With the stock trading up to 250p on the back of this recent rally, the forward earnings multiple is still above 11.

Analysts will agree that there is not much fundamentally wrong with the company, and that it is undervalued in the long term. Due to the cyclical nature of its earnings, however, there is still some scepticism about short-term prospects, and the share price may have some way to slide as the economy slows.

Potential investors would be well advised to take their time before climbing aboard.

JOHN BECKITT, managing director of Norwest, was due to have his picture taken with two young ladies from ITV's *The Price is Right* this week, to help launch Energi Freedom Pounds, a range of discount tokens for gas and electricity customers.

"Suitably attired in attractive swimwear, Emma Steadman and Kimberley Cowell will take to their poolside sun loungers," trumpeted the press blurb. Except that when it came to it, Mr Beckitt bashfully refused to be pictured with the girls. Instead Mike Brindle, marketing manager for Energi, had to perform the honours.

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PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

45 years in business journalism, notably at *The Times*, where he was business editor and business news editor.

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Alastair Smith from East of Scotland Water to be head of information technology at Stagecoach. He expects to recruit a head of human resources soon.

According to a recently published history of the company, Stagecoach, by Christian Woolmar, himself a former transport correspondent with *The Independent*, Mr Souter could do with a spin doctor.

Mr Woolmar recounts how

Mr Souter was very surprised to learn in the spring of 1997 that South West Trains had received 40,000 complaints a year.

He told journalists: "In the bus business if they didn't like what we were doing they'd throw a

brick through the bus garage window." Getting into his stride, Mr Souter added: "Are they complaining in work time?"

GEC HAS lured Sir Charles Masefield from the corridors of Whitehall to the main board as an executive director and vice-chairman responsible for the group's marketing activity. He will report directly to the chief executive, Lord Simpson.

Sir Charles has been head of Defence Export Services at the Ministry of Defence since September 1994. He will be replaced there by Tony Edwards, chairman of TI Group's aerospace interests, who stepped down from TI this week.

Previously Sir Charles was the commercial director at Airbus Industrie, in charge of worldwide marketing, sales and sales financing of all Airbus products. He started his career at British Aerospace.

Sir Geoff Pattie is also joining GEC as group communications director.

DO WE detect the fell hand of Simon Lewis, recently appointed spokesman for Buckingham Palace, in the decision

to send Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a tour of City institutions next Wednesday in order to "get to know more about the financial services industry"?

Certainly not, Mr Lewis insists. The man seconded from his £150,000-a-year PR job at Centrica to the Palace says the tour was arranged long before he arrived.

The couple will start their one-day tour at the Financial Services Authority in Canary Wharf. Whether they will get there by joining the sweaty, frustrated masses on the delay-prone Docklands Light Railway has not been announced.

Then it's back to the Square Mile to meet the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene, at Bankers Trust. The Queen will then visit Merrill Lynch and Electra, while the Duke deals with Lloyds TSB and the Stock Exchange.

After lunch Eddie George will show them around the Bank of England and introduce them to members of the Monetary Policy Committee. Perhaps they can do us all a favour and send the interesting hawks to the Tower.

Beckitt out the picture

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SPORT

Cricket: The West Indies captain has demonstrated that a player with television pulling power can call the tune

Lara revels in his power and influence

THREE years ago, when Brian Lara sought the backing of his fellow West Indies players, the rebuff so shattered him it almost brought a premature end to his career.

Fed up with internal dissension on the 1995 tour of England, Lara squarely blamed the captain, Richie Richardson. At the team meeting post-mortem of the defeat in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, in which he scored the first of his three hundreds for the series, Lara told Richardson that most of the other players felt the same way, too.

When Richardson, a quiet, mild-mannered man, responded in the words of the leaked report by the manager, Wes Hall, that he was not prepared to "bow to any egotistical people who have agendas and ambitions", Lara looked around him to the sound of silence. According to Hall, he "jumped up and stormed out of the meeting", declaring "I resign". He later told Hall: "Cricket is ruining my life."

Only the coaxing of then West Indies Cricket Board president, Peter Short, got him back into the fold after four days' absence without leave, but he was fined 10 per cent of his tour fee for leaving the team all the same.

Now fast forward to last weekend. Lara and nine of his present colleagues, some of whom were at the fateful Manchester meeting, are

BY TONY COZIER

ensconced at Heathrow's Excelsior Hotel, refusing to travel to Johannesburg as scheduled for a tour of special cricket and special significance until their Board agrees to meet with them to review fees and conditions.

Appointed captain in January after a lengthy, often turbulent wait, Lara had just been sacked – along with his vice-captain, Carl Hooper – by a Board that had lost patience with the

They knew that if they held firm the Board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo

several incidents that had brought him fines, reprimands and warnings from the disciplinary committee.

The career of the most celebrated, complex and controversial cricketer of his time, holder of the world record Test and first-class scores, was in the balance. It was not the first time.

The Board, angered by the defiance of Lara and Hooper in disre-

garding the instructions of the Tour manager, Clive Lloyd, to fly to South Africa straight from Dhaka, where they had led the side in the Wills International Cup, felt fully justified in taking its action. It summoned Lara to Antigua to attend a hastily arranged special meeting but, although their tickets were provided, the pair stayed put at Heathrow. It was a further aggravation.

Although the passionate public, to whom the players are heroes, swamped radio call-in shows with demands for the recall of Lara and Hooper, the Board had influential support. Even the sports minister in Lara's home island of Trinidad said he should be penalised for his "disobedience". It was tantamount to standing up in Havana's Square of the Revolution with a loudspeaker and agitating for the overthrow of Fidel Castro.

This time the Board, and those who backed it, counted without the support Lara would receive from those around him – and more especially Courtney Walsh. The former captain, as much revered in the Caribbean as at his adopted Gloucestershire, had been deposed by the Board in Lara's favour in a messy transfer of power. Only a year earlier the two were at loggerheads to such an extent that Walsh, as captain of Jamaica, pointedly chose not to toss up with Lara for a match against Trinidad and Tobago. He sent his vice-captain instead who, the talk has it, informed Lara that "the king is on the throne".

Now Walsh is the president of the newly consolidated West Indies Players' Association with Lara as his deputy and their bond – and that of the other players – is as strong as in any well-organised labour union.

The traditional platitude that no sportsman, however great, is indispensable has been rendered obsolete by the financial control exerted by the television networks and sponsors. Consequently, the players are confident of themselves and they knew that if they held firm, the board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo.

The reality was clearly spelt out by Edward Griffiths, the head of South African Broadcasting Corporation sport, which is televising the series. "We won't put up with anything but a full strength team," he said. "We owe it to our sponsors, viewers and advertisers."

With the political significance emphasised by a letter to the players from Nelson Mandela himself, hand delivered by the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Dr Ali Bacher, in London, the die had been cast.

Within hours, the Board had dispatched one of its most identifiable and popular members, Joel Garner, the giant fast bowler of the 1980s, and the manager, Lloyd, to London to initiate negotiations. The players politely told them that only the Board president, Pat Rousseau, the tough-talking Jamaican attorney who took up the post in 1996, would do.

The former South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson, who now represents the 21 players contracted to the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said that the row could prompt the formation of an international body aimed at looking after players' interests.

"I don't think we can go as far as to have standardised contracts for tours," Richardson said, "but guidelines and basic necessities ought to be established."

In quick time, Rousseau and a more high-powered delegation was on its way and, with the limp explanation that it was merely a "misunderstanding" that had kept South



Brian Lara has extended his dominance from the crease to the whole organisation of cricket in the West Indies

Allsport

Africa, the Caribbean and the entire cricket world on tenterhooks for close to a week. Lara and Hooper were reinstated, the fines against the recalcitrant players, including Walsh, withdrawn and the Players' Association's demands on fees and conditions agreed to.

It was an ironic twist. The Board had gone against the better judgement of most of its members in appointing Lara. Only a few months earlier, they had actually rejected the recommendation of the selectors to

install him for the tour of Pakistan and retained Walsh, a decision that had led Lara's home board in Trinidad to charge the WICB with "a calculated plot to tarnish their image and international reputation using Lara's past indiscretions as the basis for sowing the seeds of destruction". A startling accusation, it typified the insular divisions that still beset West Indies cricket at all levels.

The WICB also funded the establishment in Barbados of a permanent secretariat of the Players'

Association, for years a disjointed body that represented only the current Test players. It is giving \$150,000 (£93,000) over a three-year period, enough to help pay for the first chief executive officer, the former Test all-rounder team manager and chief selector, David Holford.

What the outcome has unquestionably done is strengthen Lara's position as the most influential player in the West Indies and arguably now the most influential person in West Indies cricket, period. He and

the Players' Association have won a famous struggle against the Board, whose reputation and resolve had already been dented by a succession of fiascos in recent times.

One of Rousseau's first acts on assuming the presidency of what was then the West Indies Cricket Board of Control in 1996 was to delete the word "control" from its title. It was a symbolic gesture designed to erase its image as an uncaring relic of a colonial past. It can be now seen as a prophetic augury for the future.

Tourists turn to diplomacy

BRIAN LARA, the reinstated captain of the troubled West Indies team, apologised after arriving in Johannesburg yesterday for missing the first match of their historic South African tour because of a pay dispute.

However, Lara refused to discuss the settlement reached in London on Monday that persuaded them to travel to South Africa. The matter was "totally confidential," he said.

"The team is here to win the Test series and the whole team, apart from Jimmy Adams, is fit," Lara added. Adams, it transpired, had cut a finger on his right hand with a bread knife while trying to slice a bread roll on the flight from London.

The team arrived yesterday morning in South Africa without the fast bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who apparently arrived late at Heathrow airport for their flight. The rest of the squad left London on Monday evening after a settlement ended the revolt over pay. The opening match is scheduled for today in Soweto, against a Gauteng provincial XI. The first Test begins on 26 November in Johannesburg.

The late arrival caused the team to miss yesterday's exhibition match in Randjesfontein near Johannesburg. Lara said the team wanted to apologise. "They're pretty sorry at this time for any offence," he said. "We also want to thank President Mandela for the letter he sent to us in London during the discussions. Everyone on the team respects

President Mandela tremendously, and the gesture was deeply appreciated."

Mandela had urged that the cricketers to resolve their differences – the president sees sport as a means of achieving racial unity. This tour is the first by the West Indies since the fall of apartheid in South Africa.

Before the settlement was agreed, the West Indies Cricket Board agreed to recognise the role of the players' union, review player insurance coverage and the grievance and disciplinary code, and work toward a joint marketing programme that would allow players a share in revenue.

The West Indies tour manager, Clive Lloyd, described the dispute as a "little hull in their careers," referring to Lara and Carl Hooper, the vice-captain who, along with Lara, was sacked and then reinstated. "But they are professional people and know what's expected of them," Lloyd added.

The former South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson, who now represents the 21 players contracted to the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said that the row could prompt the formation of an international body aimed at looking after players' interests.

"I don't think we can go as far as to have standardised contracts for tours," Richardson said, "but guidelines and basic necessities ought to be established."

Irwin grabs the money but not the credit

The three-times US Open champion has earned more on the senior circuit than Tiger Woods and David Duval have picked up elsewhere yet few acknowledge his feat. By Andy Farrell

HERE IS a question Colin Montgomerie or Lee Westwood might want to get up on should they be appearing on "A Question of Sport": Who holds the record for the biggest earnings on a single tour in a single season? Tiger Woods? David Duval, perhaps? Sorry. The answer is Hale Irwin.

While you are trying to work that one out, here is a supplementary: Whose record did he overtake? Greg Norman, perhaps. No, in fact it was his own.

For the last two seasons Irwin, who plays on the US Senior Tour, has been the biggest money winner on any single circuit. Last year he won \$2.3m (£1.4m) while Woods led the regular tour with \$2.1m. Last Sunday, Irwin won the Senior Tour Championship to top the list again with \$2.9m compared to Duval's \$2.6m.

The strength in depth, of course, is nothing compared to the regular

circuit, where 26 players passed \$1m this season. But the fact that 11 seniors also broke through the seven-figure barrier shows what a remarkable sport golf is when a bunch of 50-year-olds can earn similar winnings to those in prime

You would think they would get fed up with all the travelling and the constant grind of tour life but, with over 40 tournaments worth over \$40m, who is complaining. As Julie Boros asked: how do you retire when you have spent all your life playing golf and fishing? And don't bother with the Viagra, there have been creche facilities on the Senior tour for years.

Irwin does not just play on the

tour; he dominates it. His latest win was his 20th in four years. He won nine times in 1997 and seven times this season, including the PGA Seniors' Championship and the US Senior Open. He led the tour in putting, greens in regulation, birdies per round and lowered the stroke average record to 68.59.

But who exactly is Irwin beating? His nearest challenger is Gil Morgan, who has won six times in each of the last two seasons and finished second on the money list with over \$2m each time. Last Sunday, Morgan, the defending champion, went into the final round with a one-stroke lead but Irwin shot a 65 to win by five. With no one else near

enough to challenge the top two it could be a great rivalry. But the outside world is showing little evidence that it cares very much. What Irwin and Morgan lack is the kind of the Golden Oldies circuit was founded on: charisma.

Irwin, at least, was a major champion. But he will be remembered for the admiration but hardly thrilling achievement of hitting enough fairways and greens to win three US Opens in three different decades. Morgan won seven times in his regular career but the most exciting line in his biography is that he is a non-practising optometrist.

Arnold Palmer was the catalyst for the Senior tour in the early 80s.

Arnie's Army still had eyes for only one man, he just needed a different playground. The tour reached its zenith earlier in this decade when Lee Trevino – who won a record 27 times before the "round belles" started to flatten – Jack Nicklaus and Ray Floyd arrived on the circuit.

Nicklaus never wanted to be seen playing full time on a ceremonial circuit but, ironically, his desire to perform at the highest level helped move the Senior tour away from that image towards a highly competitive arena. It is now one where the lifespan of a senior in terms of regularly contending has shrunk to under five years.

Also falling, however, are the television ratings. "Our product is fairly bland. We all realise there's a little bit of a hull right now," one tournament director told an American magazine last year – after only one season of the Irwin-Morgan show.

"Irwin and Morgan are not real

exciting to watch," said Johnny Miller. "They don't relate to the galleries like the old superstars. It's one down from having Trevino battling Nicklaus, that's for sure."

Miller, the former British and US Open champion, has only been persuaded to come down from his commentary tower for a couple of Senior events and immediately retreated when he scattered puts all over the place. The next big names to join the circuit – and that is not definite – since they have already cashed in on the regular tour – are Tom Watson, Tom Kite and Larry Watkins.

"I will play the senior tour but I'm not sure how much," said Watson. "It might be more fun over there, seeing a lot of old friends and less pressure in a way. But what Jack Nicklaus told me is absolutely true: Tom, these guys can really play". It's no place to go thinking of making a half-hearted effort."



Irwin: Lacking charisma

Watson will be the first of the trio to arrive but not until next September. That gives Irwin another season to clean up. "I have a lot of confidence and I'm putting well," he said. "There's no sign of weakness in my game unless I let it happen. Somewhere along the line the streak will slow down a bit. But right now, I don't intend to let it happen."

Black mark for myth peddling

in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the European Union's three largest economies, has been widely condemned as a "black mark for myth peddling".

Record stand sees England safe

CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON
in AdelaideEngland 187 & 457-4
South Australia 325
Match drawn

GRAHAM THORPE and Mark Ramprakash shared a record partnership against South Australia yesterday to give England an important boost as they enter the final stages of the Ashes build-up.

The undefeated 377-run fifth wicket partnership between the pair saved England from a potentially damaging defeat before they travel to Cairns for their final warm-up match against Queensland. It was the highest first-class stand for any wicket by an overseas side in Australia.

As delighted as both players were at entering cricket's record books by eclipsing the 368-run partnership by C A G Russell and Wilfred Rhodes against the same opponents in Adelaide back in 1920-21, their satisfaction at giving England a badly needed stimulus after a difficult opening three weeks was even greater.

Resuming just 11 runs ahead on 149 for 4, the pair successfully negotiated difficult spells from the fast bowlers Jason Gillespie and Mark Harvey at the start of the day - and again when the new ball was taken after just 16 overs. They displayed concentration, determination and discipline - three factors which were all absent during England's first-innings total of 187.

After withstanding the anxious early problems, including a late scare with Thorpe reporting ill at the ground, having contracted an overnight stomach bug, the pair grew in confidence and, by the time bad light halted play 40 minutes after tea, the debutant spinners Ewan Arnold and Andrew Crook had begun to resemble little more than declaration bowlers.

Pulling every delivery which was short of a length and driving the great number of over-pitched balls, they accelerated through the respective milestones at an alarming rate. Thorpe finished unbeaten on a career-best first-class score of 223, while Ramprakash had advanced to 140 to guide England to a commanding 457 for 4 by the premature close.

Ramprakash's

innings, which was far more cautious than Thorpe's, lasted 373 minutes and included 18 boundaries. It will have gone some way towards tipping the balance in his favour, should the England selectors have to choose between him and John Crawley for the last of six

batting places in the first Test. "I came in when we were in trouble during the first innings and we were fighting to save the game today, so it's difficult to go out and play your shots," he said. "I apply myself to the situation I find myself in, and we had to fight hard for a draw.

"We only became aware of the record," Ramprakash added, "when Ben Hollioake came out with some gloves and told us to keep going because there were only another 10 to get."

Thorpe is just happy to be on the tour after undergoing a

tortuous time rehabilitating from the back injury which ruled him out for the second half of last summer. "It's always in the back of your mind that you might miss the tour when you pick up an injury like that," he admitted, after hitting four sixes and 23 other boundaries in his 380-minute marathon.

"It's probably the best I've played since I had the operation. I've spent that much time out in the middle since it was done and it was pleasing to stay out there."

"You can build yourself up as much as you like - but you need runs under your belt especially on tour when you are only going to play about eight games," Thorpe added.

Set a target of 316 by a Pak-

istani team whose 315 for 8 was their highest one-day score against Australia, the visitors won by six wickets with seven balls to spare in Lahore.

Gilchrist, the 27-year-old left-hander from Western Australia, notched his second one-day hundred in his 39th game while

Tasmania's Ponting was man of the match with his fifth century in 59 matches.

The partnership was the highest for any wicket between Australia and Pakistan, surpassing the 173 for the fourth wicket between Dean Jones and Steve Waugh at Perth in 1987.

Gilchrist and Ponting in power play

A RECORD PARTNERSHIP of 193 between Adam Gilchrist, who made 103, and Ricky Ponting (124 not out) powered Australia to a 3-0 sweep of the one-day series against Pakistan yesterday to add to their 1-0 Test triumph.

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Gap could widen at Watford

THIS BY Andy Goodway's admission, is the sort of week when time can hang heavily on your hands.

The second-half collapse at Bolton last Saturday means that the Test series against New Zealand is lost. All that remains is to try to save some face at Watford this weekend.

"Write what you want," the Great Britain coach said yesterday, amably enough. "It's all irrelevant."

The joke at the gathering in Leeds before the squad headed south yesterday was that the watches with which they were presented by Tissot, the associate sponsors for the series, were special models. They get to 40 minutes and they stop.

Working out why his team stopped and then fell apart at that stage of the second Test, with springs and cogs flying everywhere, has been Goodway's first task this week.

"It's a lot harder to analyse than you imagine, because of

the way we took the game on in the first half," he said. "Then we went away from what we were supposed to do. We went away from what we should do for 10 minutes and that's why we got caught out of position and out of shape."

Isolating a lost ball here, a fluffed kick there on the video is one thing. Explaining the extent of Britain's capitulation after those mistakes is something else again.

"People don't want excuses, but excuses are the answers to why it went wrong," he said. "It's not that we haven't prepared well; it's that the players aren't used to this level of competition."

Goodway's answer to this is for Britain to have both more international rugby and more preparation time, although how this is compatible with the proposed 30-game Super League

season next year is not clear. A more immediate concern is avoiding the embarrassment of a Kiwi clean sweep on Saturday.

"Nobody likes to get beaten - especially me. The weight of expectation is on my shoulders. We'll do our damnedest to avoid a 3-0 whitewash. None of the players wants to be involved in a team that loses a home series 3-0."

Not that Goodway fears that his job could be under pressure. He has a vote of confidence from the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tumicoffe, that, unlike most, means what it says, although Goodway himself feels that such a pronouncement should not even be necessary.

"We don't realise it until we have a World Club Championship or a Test series. Everyone thinks that, because we put a red, white and blue shirt on, it's automatically a level playing field and it's just not like that."

Goodway's answer to this is for Britain to have both more international rugby and more preparation time, although how this is compatible with the proposed 30-game Super League

series of all time," he said. The New Zealand coach, Frank Endacott, has indicated that he might use some of the fringe players who have not been involved in the series so far.

"But there are some very good young players with us and we would not lose anything by bringing them in," he said.

His British counterpart, Andy Goodway, has been reassured that his job is not in danger, despite the scale of the defeat at Bolton, when his side let in 28 points without reply in the second half.

"Good coaches don't become bad coaches because of one Test series defeat," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tumicoffe. "They have to be given time to grow into the job."

Goodway has a contract taking him to 2001 and an administration that has stressed the value of continuity is not likely to make any knee-jerk reaction

Kiwis promise to twist the knife

GREAT BRITAIN'S injury problems for the Test against New Zealand must win to avoid the ignominy of a whitewash have worsened with the news that Iestyn Harris is unlikely to be fit, writes Dave Hadfield.

Harris, promoted to start at stand-off in the Test at Bolton on Saturday that saw the Kiwis clinch the series, strained a groin and is regarded as very doubtful for Watford this Saturday. His absence could give St Helens' Sean Long a chance to make his mark on the series.

Despite advance claims that he was fit to play at Bolton, Britain are still likely to be without Adrian Morley, while Paul Newlove is also far from being a certain starter.

Goodway checks his watch. "It might be an opportunity to play worse," he says. "We could play 80 minutes like that."

We could, but for the sake of credibility all round, he knows we had better not.

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Black mark for myth peddling

Sir: Comments about Polynesians in All Black rugby made within the recent article by your correspondent Chris Hewitt perpetuate the tiresome myth of a rapacious NZRFU roaming about the Pacific Islands, Samoa in particular looking to recruit strapping great specimens of humanity for the All Blacks, thereby depriving the Pacific Islands sides of their best talent. The only non-New Zealand-born recent All Black is Joel Vidiri, the ex-Fijian international.

Lomu, the Bachop brothers, Bunce, Thigamala, Brown, Ferreira, Krouzfeld, Cullen, Tonu, Maka are all New Zealand born and raised with their rugger talent developed 100 per cent by the NZRFU. In fact, any raiding is coming from the

opposite direction with a popular Samoan side (coached by that All Black great, Brian Williams) now providing an increasingly attractive alternative path to competitive international rugby for many New Zealand born-and-raised and NZRFU-developed laddies for whom in many cases the islands of their ancestors are nothing more than a place for a nice holiday.

Given our miserable international season we could have done with Leapepe, Leota etc.

Now about those Nigerians, Adebayo, Hartman, Ubogu... Just think how well a team from

this African state could have performed at the last couple of World Cups if England hadn't poached them...?

ANDREW P NICHOLS
Christchurch, NZ

F1 driving back to front

Sir: In reply to the point raised (28 October) about standardising the F1 cars to the same spec. in principle this is a good plan, stopping drivers blaming their cars' performance instead of their own (poor workman blaming tools and all that). However, this would inhibit the drive

to explore technological advances, which in turn can be passed down to the retail market. A fairer system would be to start the cars in reverse order to the previous season's finishing points, thus forcing the superior drivers to start at the back of the grid.

JAMES WINGRAVE
Bromley, Kent

Prolonging the Hoddle twaddle

Sir: The FA's decision to renew Glenn Hoddle's contract is as outrageous as it is illogical. Hoddle's

stewardship has been one of unmitigated disaster.

It should never be forgotten that Hoddle said Owen was not a natural goalscorer. His persistence with players such as Betty, Anderton and Southgate confirms he is in the kindergarten class as a manager.

JOHN O'SHEA
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Dignity of the noble creatures

Sir: In your report from Perth of England's performance on the last day of the match against Western Australia, I am sorry to say Justin Langer's comments sum up the situation. In fact it could be worse. Were we

getting in some practice on how to bat out the last day to save the game?

We were not "deprived" of Atherton and Stewart before the game - we sent a squad of our best players on the tour. If we are that worried about Western Australia, God help us when the Tests start.

DAVID SCAMMELL,
Bournemouth, Dorset.

Sir: Can I ask a stupid question? What is the offside rule designed to do

Henman set for Olympia doubles

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE

TIM HENMAN, still battling to win a place at the ATP Championships at Hanover later this month, will make a rare appearance in London on 3 December, when he plays in an exhibition doubles match at Olympia. The British No 1 will partner the Iranian Mansour Bahrami against a pair still to be named.

Last year, when the Honda Challenge was held at the Albert Hall, Henman, with his coach David Felgate, won a special doubles event by beating the former British No 1 Jeremy Bates and the 42-year-old Bahrami, a trick-shot specialist, in the final.

The event will be staged from 3 to 6 December and the senior singles has an eight-man field, containing two groups of four with the most eagerly awaited match probably between John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg on 3 December.

If Henman can beat Wayne Ferreira to earn a place in the third round of the Stockholm Open he will gain automatic entry into the ATP event in Hanover.

The sixth seed, Cedric Pioline, was given a tough opening match by the 17-year-old Swede Andreas Vinciguerra in the Stockholm Open yesterday. Vinciguerra, No 3 in the junior rankings, forced the Frenchman to play his best until his inexperience told and he lost 6-7, 7-5. The American Todd Martin demolished a qualifier, Ivo Heuberger of Switzerland, 6-1, 6-2, in another first-round match.

Rolex call time on Cork plan

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

AN OFFER by the Royal Cork Yacht Club to host the Commodore's Cup in the year 2000 has been squashed by the refusal of the sponsor, Rolex, to move from Cowes and the Solent. "We think we could stage a first-rate Commodore's Cup ahead of Ford Cork Week in early July and attract up to 15 teams," Royal Cork spokesman Donal McClement said.

But David Minards of the organising Royal Ocean Racing Club, said the decision to stay on the south coast of England had been a joint one. "We took a back seat in this," he said. "If Rolex had wanted to move to Cork we could live with that, we would not throw a wobbly. Cork is a lovely place." But he said that any fundamental change in the format of the event would have to be agreed with the sponsors. "It was a very open discussion. The Royal Cork spoke direct to Rolex and we had no problem with that. To all intents and purposes, however, this proposal is a dead duck."

He was upbeat about the prospects for next year's Admiral's Cup and the need to attract more than the seven-boat national teams which took part in 1997. "I think we will achieve our target of 12 overall," said Minards.

for football? I ask this as at the moment it seems to spoil the game in a number of ways, for example, goals being disallowed, abuse being hurled at linesmen, etc. It is time we looked at a better way of achieving the aims of the offside law was designed for without all the negative features of the offside law.

I can see very little merit in the offside law and think it should be abolished, with perhaps the only restriction that you can only be offside from balls played from your own half. I believe this would be sufficient to eliminate goal hangers waiting for long balls played from their own half.

The result of that would be more goals and an end to defences playing the offside trap, which is one of the more boring aspects of the game.

RAKESH CHHABRA

London



England's Graham Thorpe (left) and Mark Ramprakash celebrate in Adelaide yesterday after achieving their record first-class stand of 377 runs

Allsport

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Sir: Your report from Perth of England's performance on the last day of the match against Western Australia, I am sorry to say Justin Langer's comments sum up the situation. In fact it could be worse. Were we

getting in some practice on how to bat out the last day to save the game?

Stable guide to a season's meetings

Leading trainers give their horses to follow over the jumps this winter. Interviews by Richard Austen

ROBERT ALNER
"Gillian Cove won last week at Newton Abbot. He loves the mud. He was a decent staying hurdler and he's taken to fences. The other one would be Over The Water, who won at Kempton last week, first time over fences. It was a surprise to us; we beat Supreme Charm – whether he ran his race or not I don't know – but our fellow did it quite easily; he jumped like a buck. He's got a race to go on. As he's only six, I won't be giving him a hard time, but he should certainly follow up."

KIM BAILEY
"Impeachment, a Lord Americo gelding that's unraced, will run in bumpers before going hurdling, and the other horse I'll give you is Honour Your Vows, an unraced full-brother to Try-ing Again. They've both been schooled over hurdles and they'll both want a trip."

TIM EASTERY
"Simply Gifted will be a very good jumper one day. He's got lots of speed and gets the trip and jumps well, apart from the other day at Wetherby! (when he looked the winner but fell two out). Good Vibes is a very good hurdler. He got beaten in a novice chase first time out but I was pleased with him. I think he'll get a trip. They're horses that I think will win races."

MICKY HAMMOND
"Profluent has won on the Flat, over hurdles and over

fences, in France. A good winner over 2m4f at Wetherby; he's gone up 7lb for that and his next race is at Aintree next Saturday. There should be a decent race for him. Turgeon is a French horse, a nice, big scopey kind of horse. He's a three-year-old who's going to run over hurdles and will make a chaser. He's been placed in two or three races around the Paris tracks."

NICKY HENDERSON
"I'd put in Stormyairweather for a novice chaser and Hide-bound (run 3.50 Newbury today) for a novice hurdler. 'Stormy' has won his hurdle races, has always been good at it, and he's a thoroughly genuine sort of horse. He likes racing and I think he'll do well over fences. Hidebound is a big, backward horse but he was very impressive in his only bumper."

PHILIP HOYES
"Good Lord Murphy won three novice hurdles last season, and he wants a test of stamina and soft ground to be at his best. He's schooled and jumped brilliantly – you'd be very hopeful he could be a decent staying novice chaser. He's extremely straightforward, and a very honest, genuine horse with lots of scope. A horse with flat-race form is Thelomus, a three-year-old colt and a good strong sort. He's just the sort to win the Triumph Hurdle and he's for sale!"

DAVID NICHOLSON
"Windross is a half-brother to Air Shot and has been given plenty of time. Call It A Day is in very good form and hopefully he'll be going for a National."

MARTIN PIPE

The champion trainer nominated Irish Banker, winner of his first two bumpers before coming a close third to Jet Tabs at Cheltenham, and Star Of Dungannon, who was 50-1 but

HENRIETTA KNIGHT
"The two I suggest are Party Leader and Lord Noelle. Party Leader has run in two bumpers and will go novice hurdling. 2m6f will probably be his best trip. Lord Noelle we bought after he finished second in a point in Ireland. He won a novice hurdle over 2m6f at Stratford in October. He's not wanted it too wet."

PAUL NICHOLLS
"Rockforce was a decent horse on the Flat for Mick Channon. He was fired, came back and ran a great race at Ascot and finished fourth. I think quite a lot of him. Grosvenor also missed all last year with a leg problem. He came back and won well and I think he could keep on improving and winning plenty of races. A horse I've just bought from the Flat, Norski Lad, looks a big, strong horse, will make a chaser one day and looks an ideal sort to go novice hurdling during the winter on soft ground."

JENNIFER PITTMAN
"Princely is an exciting prospect for novice chases, and Ever Blessed (run 1.20 Newbury today) is another with potential to be a top novice chaser."

NICKY RICHARDS

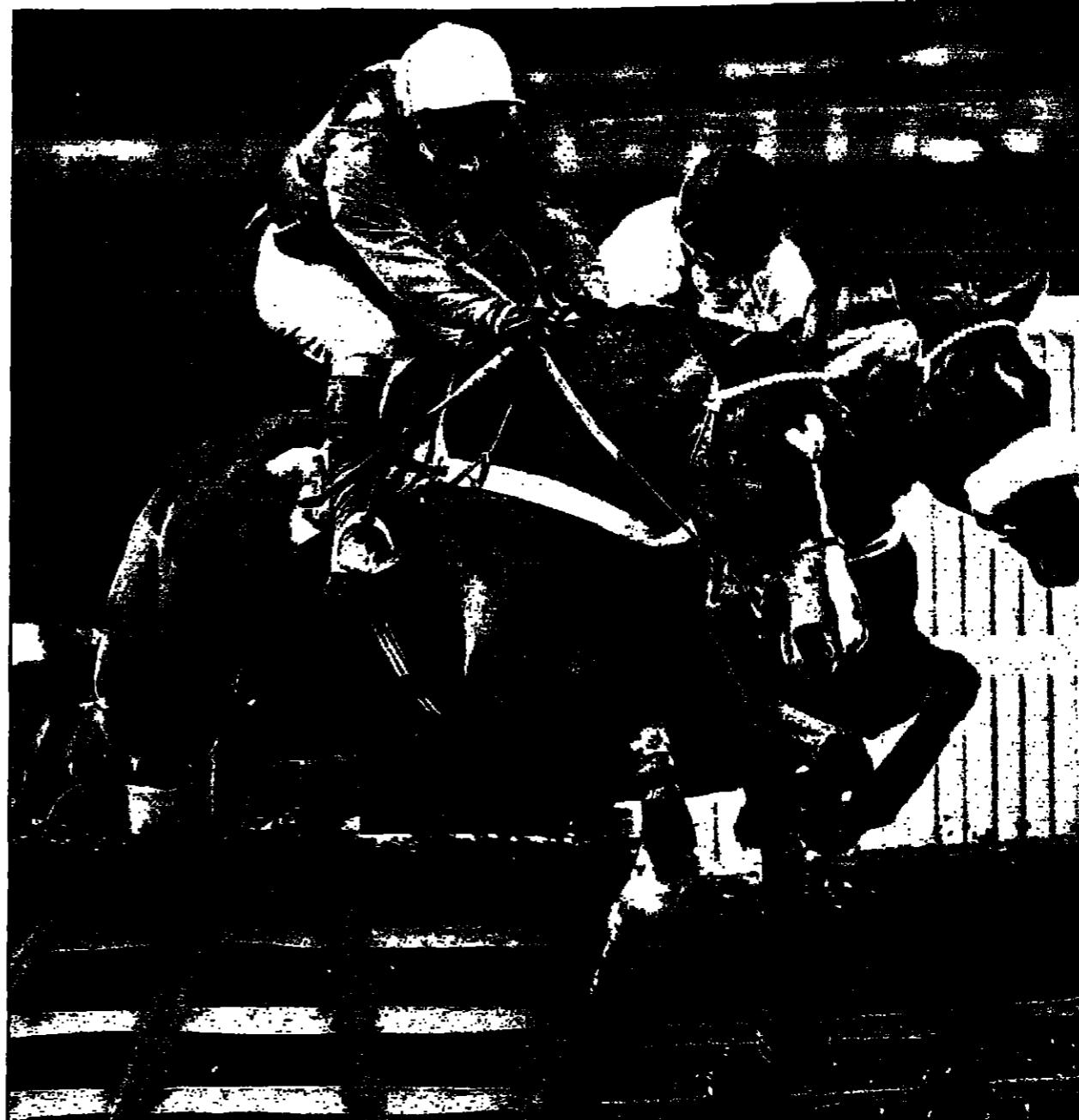
"Committed Schedule (run 2.40 Kelso today) has a nice handicap mark over fences. He's best on soft ground over 3m plus and he'll knock about in the North. We've got a nice horse called Icelandic Lord; he's a brother to McGregor The Third. He's only five and he'll start off in bumpers and then go hurdling."

OLIVER SHERWOOD
"Lord Of The River won his three hurdle races last year. I was very pleased with his novice chase win last Tuesday at Exeter. We'll run him in distance later on but just go softly, softly to start with, and if all is well we might up him in grade. Kadon Nouranatis is much the same, except for the fact he is a two-miler. He loves soft ground."

SUE SMITH

"Camtex Capers has had two runs in bumpers and will probably go over hurdles. There's no real story to tell with him apart from that he's an exceptionally nice horse. The Last Fling

gave the Pipe-trained favourite Indian Spring a scare when second in an Ascot bumper in February, trained by Stan Mellor.



Good Vibes (left), pictured winning over hurdles at Wetherby last term, is expected to do well in novice chases

had lots of problems with his jumping last year. I think he has the ability to run a great race in the Gold Cup, but because of the problems we've had you have to start taking things bit by bit. We're looking for plenty of confidence in the horse before we go on and do anything too big. Sweep Gentry won

twice last year, and he wasn't right on his last run. He'll probably have one run over hurdles and then go over fences."

NIGEL TWISTON-DAVIES
"Ashley Muck won at Exeter. The more he races, the more he'll learn to settle, I hope – so he'll get better and better I expect."

him. Rockline Gossip has run well in bumpers and should be okay in long-distance novice hurdles. He likes it soft."

VENETIA WILLIAMS
"Arctic Camper has obviously done very well as a bumper horse. Things didn't go right for him last year, but hopefully

he'll be set for a good season this time in staying novice hurdles. He'll run either at the end of this week or next week. Lady Rebecca will probably run on Sunday at Cheltenham. She'll be running in handicap hurdles. She's very adaptable so she can run at most distances; she does stay well."

Teeton on target for Hennessy

TEETON MILL, the ante-post favourite, was yesterday given the go-ahead to tackle the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Cheltenham this Saturday.

Mandy Mantino was well-backed for the Murphy's yesterday. Coral cut Josh Gifford's charge to 6-1 from 7-1. Mandy Mantino has also been shortened to 6-1 from 8-1 by William Hill. However, Gifford is concerned that Mandy Mantino's stamina may let him down.

The eight-year-old finished third in the two-mile Arkle Trophy at the course in March and was third on his reappearance over the same trip at Ascot.

But Gifford was worried the step up to two and a half miles may not suit Mandy Mantino, who weakened in the closing stages when second to Maher over two miles and five furlongs at Cheltenham in April. He said: "The trip might be a problem. He didn't quite get it last time, though he did have a lot of weight that day and it was at the end of the season. But Mandy Mantino is a definite runner and is very well. I was pleased with how he ran and

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Mandy Mantino was well-backed for the Murphy's yesterday. Coral cut Josh Gifford's charge to 6-1 from 7-1. Mandy Mantino has also been shortened to 6-1 from 8-1 by William Hill. However, Gifford is concerned that Mandy Mantino's stamina may let him down.

The eight-year-old finished third in the two-mile Arkle Trophy at the course in March and was third on his reappearance over the same trip at Ascot.

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Corry wins the back row vote

IF DEAN RICHARDS says that Martin Corry is the best No 8 in England, you can rest assured that Martin Corry is the best No 8 in England. Forty-eight international caps confirm Richards as an authority on the subject and if Clive Woodward has yet to give the great Leicester folk hero an ex-officio place on his selection panel, he has clearly taken notice of the smoke signals emanating from Welford Road recently.

Corry, capped twice in Argentina last year, will make a third appearance for his country against the Netherlands at Huddersfield this weekend and, while the opposition is certain to be of the pushover variety,

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWETT

the game could still be the making of him. "In one sense, he's in because Lawrence Dallaglio is injured," said Woodward yesterday.

"But in another very real sense, he's in form. Martin has huge physical presence and he has made it count for Leicester in recent weeks. I have no hesitation in asking him to do a job for England."

As recently as a month ago the two Saracens loose forwards, Richard Hill and Tony Dippole, would have fancied their chances of starting Sat-

urday's one-way bum fight at the McAlpine Stadium. Since then, however, the balance of the domestic Premiership has shifted towards Leicester and Woodward is genuinely excited by the prospect of Corry and Neil Back, the first name on his team sheet, recreating their club partnership at Test level.

"Back is simply outstanding at the moment but, to get the very best from his talents, you need to put some heavy artillery alongside him," the coach explained. "I think both Martin and Ben Clarke come into that category and I've no doubt that they will give Neil the licence to do the things he does best."

England are almost embarras-

singly well endowed in the loose forward department; this time last year Woodward considered the Dallaglio-Hill-Dippole axis to be his best back-row combination. Dallaglio will almost certainly recover from strained knee ligaments in good time for the grudge match with the Wallabies at Twickenham on 28 November — the World Cup regulations effectively rule him out of the qualifier with Italy on Sunday week — but the Saracens pair now face an uphill climb towards further Test recognition.

By comparison, the wing positions remain so up in the air as to be suffering from altitude sickness. Dan Luger, a hot per-

former on the Harlequins left wing this season with seven tries in nine Premiership outings, wins his first cap in the absence of David Rees and Tony Underwood, while Austin Healey hangs on in there despite his preference for life at scrum-half. It is a fair bet, though, that the wide partnership will change by the time England reach the more meaningful sections of their pre-Christmas programme.

"If we were playing a World Cup final this weekend, I would be seriously concerned about losing players of the calibre of Rees and Underwood, not to mention someone of Lawrence's stature," admitted Woodward. "but we're not involved in anything of that magnitude this weekend so I can be more philosophical."

On the quiet, the coach was almost grateful for one late withdrawal. Kyran Bracken's back strain, suffered during Monday's training session, saved Woodward a hellish decision and enabled him to pair Matt Dawson with his Northampton club-mate, Paul Grayson. Which way would he have jumped had both No 9s been fully fit? "Pass," he said. "The dilemma didn't arise so I haven't lost any sleep. Yet."

According to Martin Johnson, who shoulders the captaincy burden in Dallaglio's

absence, the task ahead is simple. "We'll prepare as we would for any Test and, while I know we are meant to win by God knows how many points, we'll judge ourselves on the basis of how we perform," he said.

Meanwhile back at Leicester, Richards also knows how he will judge Woodward's selection. Given that the Leicester coach must travel to Wasps on Sunday without three-quarters of his pack, he probably considers it a disaster if only he had kept his mouth shut about Corry.

ENGLAND (v Italy): C Corry (Leicester), M Johnson (Leicester), B Clarke (Richmond), M Back (Leicester), R Ball (Leicester), P Robinson (Leicester), P Dallaglio (Bath), B Fenton (Saracens), G Steadman (Leicester), P Cawthron (Saracens), G Greenway (Sale), T Rodger (Northampton), R Hill (Saracens), F. Jones (Leicester), S Lewis (Leicester), M Dawson (Northampton), J Leonard (Harlequins), R Crookshank (Leicester), D Garforth (Leicester).



Luger: Earns first cap

ARCHER (Newcastle), M Johnson (Leicester), B Clarke (Richmond), M Back (Leicester), R Ball (Leicester), P Robinson (Leicester), P Dallaglio (Bath), B Fenton (Saracens), G Steadman (Leicester), J Guscott (Leicester), M Perry (Bath), A Healey (Leicester), M Greenway (Leicester), J Guscott (Leicester), M Lewis (Leicester), M Dawson (Northampton), J Leonard (Harlequins), R Crookshank (Leicester), D Garforth (Leicester), G Greenway (Saracens).

Slimline Quinnell reveals his appetite

Wales' imposing second-row forward is shaping up for Saturday's full tilt at the Springboks. By Chris Hewett



Craig Quinnell in full flow for Richmond, where he has made his successful conversion to the second row

NO COFFEE, no tea, no sugar, no dairy produce; no nothing, it seems, except chocolate — a non-negotiable part of his new diet — and regular helpings of raw meat, preferably human and clad in the colours of opposing rugby teams. Craig Quinnell has been devouring raw forwards with an unseemly relish these last two seasons and he is not about to turn vegetarian with the Springboks in town. Especially now that a recent fitness regime has reduced him to a waif-like 19 stones or so and left him in obvious need of a square meal.

When the formidable frame of Quinnell the Younger emerges from his country's dressing-room on Saturday afternoon — always assuming, of course, that the Wembley ground staff widen the tunnel sufficiently to allow him access to the pitch — it will mark his first Test start since Wales beat Fiji 19-15 in Cardiff in 1995. The put-upon Welsh public find that fact difficult to digest and they are not alone, for those hoity-toity English types who watch Richmond's weekly forays into the Allied Dunbar Premiership will happily testify to the big man's rumbustious talents.

It is not as if Red Dragon teams of the recent past have been so blessed by second row giants that they could reasonably afford to ignore him; after all, we are talking here about a nation that has signally failed to produce a lock forward of genuine world class since Bob Norster subsided all too gently into oblivion on the 1989 Lions tour of Australia. Those sentimental boys of the valleys who fondly remember Delme Thomas and Allan Martin and dear old Geoff Wheel are only half-joking when they wonder if Wales could now expect to achieve line-out parity with the Japanese.

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Hence the palpable sense of relief surrounding Graham Henry's decision to see sense at the first time of asking. The new national coach has paired Quinnell with Chris Wyatt for this weekend's swipe at the South African world champions and if those two fail to hit it off, there really is no hope. Both men have the bright scarlet blood of Llanelli coursing through their veins and both bring a loose forward's fluency to their second-row play, which is no bad thing when you consider that the very greatest locks of the post-war era, Colin Meads of New Zealand and Frik du Preez of South Africa, took a similar approach.

"I played most of my rugby for Llanelli in the back row and Chris still turns out for them at No 8, so hopefully we'll get around Wembley more quickly than before. I'm also getting my hands on the ball in wider positions, which can't be a bad thing."

The current Welsh props, Andrew Lewis and Chris Anthonys, will be the first to appreciate Quinnell's Ryvita approach to life in the boilerhouse. They remember, are the poor devils who have to prop him skywards at every line-out.

As Quinnell warmed to the conversation, he mounted a sterling defence of his capacity for self-motivation. Critics have labelled him a lazy player, an in-and-outter, an unreliable performer over 80 minutes.

"Quinnell jumps at two and again at four" is the kind of taunt he has grown used to since he first rumbled on to the representative scene after the last World Cup. Needless to say, he feels a little hard done by.

"That's just not me," he insisted. "Games either go your way or they don't and it takes someone very special to rise above that basic fact. If you look at my Richmond statistics, I consistently record the highest tackle count of our five fix. I'm averaging a dozen good hits a game at the moment and while our hooker Barry Williams, occasionally manages one or two more, he doesn't do it very often. I'm carrying the ball pretty effectively too and to my mind, I can't be that lazy if I'm putting in that much around the field."

"At the moment, the buzz is very definitely there and I owe Richmond for that. Not only did they give me the chance to improve my outlook by playing alongside quality people — Ben Clarke, Brian Moore and so on — but they encouraged me to reinvent myself as a second row. Now I look on it as my natural position, to the extent that when I played in the back row for the first time in a long while a couple of weeks ago, I spent most of the game thinking: 'Bugger me, what have I let myself in for here?' I still enjoy the feel of the ball in my hands, of course, but lock-forwards run very different lines to flankers. Basically, we graft more and flash less!"

The fine Quinnell plans to run Saturday's line straight towards the nearest Springbok. "They might even have a run at me," he smiled. "That would be nice. The earlier the better." The last time a Welsh second row showed such an appetite for the fray, God was in short trousers. What price a revelation this weekend?

Ireland call up Duignan for World Cup qualifier

PAT DUIGNAN, the 26-year-old Galwegians and Connacht centre, is the only new cap in the Ireland team to play Georgia in Saturday's World Cup qualifying match at Lansdowne Road.

Duignan was born in Canada of Irish parents on 1 May 1972, but grew up in Australia. He came to Ireland last season when he became a regular in the Connacht team, which was then coached by Warren Gatland, the current Ireland national coach. With the former

captain Keith Wood ruled out because of contractual differences of opinion with the Irish Rugby Football Union, Ross Neade takes over as hooker. Paddy Johns continues as captain, having led Ireland on last summer's tour to South Africa.

In the front row, Peter Clohessy has been switched from his original tight-head position to take over at loose-head prop. Eric Miller, who has only recently returned from Leicester to join Terenure College in

Dublin, has been chosen at blind-side flanker despite being short of match practice. Miller has played just twice for Ulster and twice for his club.

IRELAND (v Georgia): J Bishop (London Irish); P Delaney (Galwegians); E Bath (Galwegians); C McManus (St Mary's College); P O'Brien (Young Munster); N Neade (Limerick); P John (Saracens); B Miller (Luton); P John (Saracens); M O'Leary (London); C O'Leary (Rugby); D Humphreys (Dunfermline); G Dempsey (Terenure College); J Dawson (Carmarthen); P Fitzpatrick (Dunfermline); A Clarke (Dunfermline); J Dawson (Carmarthen); P Fitzpatrick (Dunfermline); A Clarke (Dunfermline).

Scotland turn to veteran Burnell

THE VETERAN prop Paul Burnell has declared he is ready to carry on defying the ageing process and help launch a new era of Scottish rugby, nearly a decade after laying the foundations for its finest hour.

The 33-year-old London Scottish front-row stalwart is expected to be named today in the Scotland team to open their international season against the New Zealand Maoris at Murrayfield on Saturday.

His selection will be welcomed by those who like the "big and bulky" variety and is also

reward for a willingness to adapt to the ever-increasing demands of the modern game.

Burnell is in familiar territory, having been selected at the 11th hour for the final match of this year's Five Nations campaign, against England, despite a three-year absence from the international scene.

Subsequently overlooked for a place on the summer tour to Australia, the neck injury which has ruled Matthew Proudfoot out until the new year has now handed Burnell another opportunity to add to his 42 caps.

"I am playing as well as I have ever played, and that is in

the English Premiership against high-class opposition week in, week out. It is not so much the way you keep yourself physically fit these days but how well you are attuned mentally at the top level."

Burnell, who won his first cap against England in 1989 and was also a Lion in 1993, is certainly aiming to remain in contention for a third World Cup this time next year after featuring in both the 1991 and 1995 tournaments.

"I count myself fortunate that I am paid to do what I love doing, and professional rugby has affected everyone in terms of training, attitude and rest," he said. "The level of fitness has improved; the game has got quicker and faster, and the players have changed with it.

"I am playing as well as I have ever played, and that is in

happens after that," he said. "But I don't feel any older than I was when I was 23, and my appetite for the game is as big as ever."

His challenger for the No 3 jersey in the current squad is the Glasgow Caledonian prop Willie Anderson. The 31-year-old former Kirkcaldy player's form in the European Cup has been rewarded with a belated first senior call-up.

"I have been following and playing rugby since I was a small schoolboy, and it would be my ultimate ambition to get a Scotland cap," he said.

"I am playing as well as I have ever played, and that is in

RACING RESULTS

NEWBURY
Soft (changed to good to soft after 3:30)
1.20: (2m 10yd handicap hurdle)
1. BOLD GAIT — C. O'Brien 7-2
2. Stone Ridge — N Williamson 4-1
3. Berario — A P McCoy 9-4
Also: 7-1 Quigley (abt). 10-1 Cheesing Th Moon. 10-20: 1. C. O'Brien (Sth). 40-41: 1. C. O'Brien (Sth). 1. C. O'Brien (Sth).
7-2, 7-2½, 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4, 10-5, 10-6, 10-7, 10-8, 10-9, 10-10, 10-11, 10-12, 10-13, 10-14, 10-15, 10-16, 10-17, 10-18, 10-19, 10-20, 10-21, 10-22, 10-23, 10-24, 10-25, 10-26, 10-27, 10-28, 10-29, 10-30, 10-31, 10-32, 10-33, 10-34, 10-35, 10-36, 10-37, 10-38, 10-39, 10-40, 10-41, 10-42, 10-43, 10-44, 10-45, 10-46, 10-47, 10-48, 10-49, 10-50, 10-51, 10-52, 10-53, 10-54, 10-55, 10-56, 10-57, 10-58, 10-59, 10-60, 10-61, 10-62, 10-63, 10-64, 10-65, 10-66, 10-67, 10-68, 10-69, 10-70, 10-71, 10-72, 10-73, 10-74, 10-75, 10-76, 10-77, 10-78, 10-79, 10-80, 10-81, 10-82, 10-83, 10-84, 10-85, 10-86, 10-87, 10-88, 10-89, 10-90, 10-91, 10-92, 10-93, 10-94, 10-95, 10-96, 10-97, 10-98, 10-99, 10-100, 10-101, 10-102, 10-103, 10-104, 10-105, 10-106, 10-107, 10-108, 10-109, 10-110, 10-111, 10-112, 10-113, 10-114, 10-115, 10-116, 10-117, 10-118, 10-119, 10-120, 10-121, 10-122, 10-123, 10-124, 10-125, 10-126, 10-127, 10-128, 10-129, 10-130, 10-131, 10-132, 10-133, 10-134, 10-135, 10-136, 10-137, 10-138, 10-139, 10-140, 10-141, 10-142, 10-143, 10-144, 10-145, 10-146, 10-147, 10-148, 10-149, 10-150, 10-151, 10-152, 10-153, 10-154, 10-155, 10-156, 10-157, 10-158, 10-159, 10-160, 10-161, 10-162, 10-163, 10-164, 10-165, 10-166, 10-167, 10-168, 10-169, 10-170, 10-171, 10-172, 10-173, 10-174, 10-175, 10-176, 10-177, 10-178, 10-179, 10-180, 10-181, 10-182, 10-183, 10-184, 10-185, 10-186, 10-187, 10-188, 10-189, 10-190, 10-191, 10-192, 10-193, 10-194, 10-195, 10-196, 10-197, 10-198, 10-199, 10-200, 10-201, 10-202, 10-203, 10-204, 10-205, 10-206, 10-207, 10-208, 10-209, 10-210, 10-211, 10-212, 10-213, 10-214, 10-215, 10-216, 10-217, 10-218, 10-219, 10-220, 10-221, 10-222, 10-223, 10-224, 10-225, 10-226, 10-227, 10-228, 10-229, 10-230, 10-231, 10-232, 10-233,

High rollers fall on hard times

AS USUAL the likeable direct Roy Hodgson did not duck the question. "No one involved with Blackburn Rovers would try to pretend that our start to the season has been anything short of disappointing," he said. No one did because these words were spoken in mid-September - before the real stumpp began.

Since then, Rovers have gone from disappointing to worse, winning one of their last nine League matches while slipping into the relegation places. The future does not look rosy either; as away matches against Newcastle, Manchester United and Liverpool do not normally launch revivals. By tonight they could be out of the Worthington Cup; by December they could be bottom of the Premiership.

It is an abhorrent prospect for the champions of 1995 and one made more grim by contrast. Spin back a year and Rovers were third in the Premiership, had walloped Sheffield Wednesday 7-2 and Aston Villa 4-0 and had lost only once, unluckily 4-3 to Leeds. On Remembrance Day the Blackburn public can remember only too well the giddy sense of excitement that had walked into Ewood Park alongside Hodgson as he became manager in June 1997 in succession to Ray Harford.

Their prefer to forget 1998 altogether. Just seven wins and 26 points have been collected in 11 months of toil and frequent tears and the team looks dispirited to the point where you can almost see the self-belief dripping from their blue and white shirts.

On Saturday if the nadir was not reached then Blackburn moved into the neighbourhood with a 2-1 home defeat by fellow strugglers Coventry City. This time it was the performance as well as the result that looked ugly and isolated boozing broke out as the team left the field.

"We've got no quarrel with the result," Hodgson said afterwards. "I thought it was a very, very good Coventry side and they prevented us from playing. When you play very well it always makes your side look poor."

No one disputed the last sentiment but Coventry a very, very good side? Gordon Strachan's team, it ought to be noted, had won only twice before they arrived at Ewood Park and if they deserve superlatives how do you evaluate Aston Villa and Arsenal? It is in those terms that, not so long ago, Blackburn were being referred.

BLACKBURN'S FALL DOWN THE PREMIERSHIP

TOP THREE AT 10 JAN 1998						BOTTOM THREE AT 11 NOV 1998						Pts			
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Man United	21	14	4	3	49	16	46	Blackburn	12	2	3	7	12	17	9
Blackburn	21	11	8	2	38	21	41	Notts Forest	12	2	3	7	8	18	9
Chelsea	21	12	3	6	46	21	39	Southampton	12	1	4	7	9	16	7

BLACKBURN'S LEAGUE PERFORMANCE SINCE JAN 98											
Jan 98 to May 98											
Played 17, won 5, lost 10, drawn 2, goals for 19, goals against 31											
August 98 to Nov 98											
Played 11, won 3, lost 6 drawn 2, goals for 12, goals against 17											
Total											
Played 28, won 8, lost 16, drawn 4, goals for 31, goals against 48											

Hendrie senses new Cup glory with Tamworth

The Scottish father of an English midfield talent is preparing to relive his finest moment. By Phil Shaw

THE LAMB Ground in the Staffordshire town of Tamworth, with its smart but small stand sponsored by a local garage, compares with Wembley stadium like the nearby newsagent's with Harrod's. Yet both venues hold rich promise for the footballing Hendries.

Lee Hendrie, the 21-year-old Aston Villa midfielder, could make his England debut beneath the twin towers next week if, as the Villa hierarchy anticipate, he is named in the squad to face the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, his father Paul - who is so Scottish that his first club was Kirkintilloch Rob Roy - has a double date with FA Cup glory.

On Friday night, Hendrie Sr will be Halifax Town's guest of honour as they launch the first round at Manchester City. In 1980, it was his goal that secured a famous win for a humdrum Fourth Division outfit over Malcolm Allison's expensive City side from the top section.

The next day, while Lee strives to help the Premiership leaders to success at Southampton, Paul will be back in his role as Tamworth manager. His task to guide the Lambs, 13th in the Dr Martens League Premier Division, to a home victory against Exeter City.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that Hendrie Jnr is the first in the family to mix in the highest company. Paul, now 44, started out with Kenny Dalglish at Celtic under Jock Stein. He also played in the old First Division, supplying crosses for Trevor Francis and Bob Latchford as a teenaged winger for Birmingham City.

After taking the "massive gamble" of joining Portland Timbers in the North American Soccer League at the same age his son is now, he came up against Pele, Best, Beckenbauer and Eusebio. Hendrie cherishes the experience but concedes that he missed out on an important part of his development as a player.

"It was a fantastic time for me," he recalls. "In half an hour

you could be in the mountains or on the beach. But I probably didn't make the most of my time there because the standards weren't as good in the States."

The temptation to move might not have been so strong if Birmingham had won the FA Cup in 1975. Hendrie appeared in their semi-final replay against Fulham at Maine Road, coincidentally - and takes up the story with a baron contest entering the last seconds of extra time.

"They'd just said on the Tannoy that the second replay would be at Highbury when Fulham launched the ball up field," he says.

'I love what I'm doing at Tamworth. Some great players I played with aren't involved in the game at all'

says, wincing at the memory.

"Our keeper, Dave Latchford, dashed out but his clearance hit John Mitchell, their No 9, in the chest. The ball just bobbled in."

Five years passed before the Cup tates favoured Hendrie on a right mudbath" at Halifax. City included players like Steve Daley (£1.5m) and Michael Robinson (£750,000), but the only scorer was a diminutive midfielder signed on a free transfer.

Hendrie can still picture every detail of the build-up, culminating in his left-footed shot past Joe Corrigan. "There were 15 minutes to go and City battered us. It was a case of holding on as they threw everything forward. Afterwards they complained a lot about the pitch."

After playing professionally until he was 35, Hendrie helped to nurture Lee's precocious talent while taking his first, mod-

est steps into management in the Midlands. Having cut his teeth with Chelmsley, where the dug-out was "basically a box", and Redditch, he came to Tamworth three and a half years ago.

They soon won the Midland Division by a 26-point margin and now have their sights on the Conference. Despite the weekly exodus to watch the likes of Villa and Wolves, Hendrie points to a hard core of 900 fans as proof of the club's potential as proof of the club's potential.

"I'm very pleased with the progress here, and not just the first team. They didn't run any other sides before I arrived but now we've got Under-14s, a youth team and a reserve side who are top of their league."

His office is spartan, the walls adorned only by the odd pennant and the desk bare save for a couple of good-luck cards. Some might see it as a come-down for one who has tackled Pele, but not Hendrie. "I love what I'm doing. Some great players I played with, internationals like Kenny Burns, aren't involved in the game at all."

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Hendrie can still picture every detail of the build-up, culminating in his left-footed shot past Joe Corrigan. "There were 15 minutes to go and City battered us. It was a case of holding on as they threw everything forward. Afterwards they complained a lot about the pitch."

After playing professionally until he was 35, Hendrie helped to nurture Lee's precocious talent while taking his first, mod-

est steps into management in the Midlands. Having cut his teeth with Chelmsley, where the dug-out was "basically a box", and Redditch, he came to Tamworth three and a half years ago.

They soon won the Midland Division by a 26-point margin and now have their sights on the Conference. Despite the weekly exodus to watch the likes of Villa and Wolves, Hendrie points to a hard core of 900 fans as proof of the club's potential as proof of the club's potential.

"I'm very pleased with the progress here, and not just the first team. They didn't run any other sides before I arrived but now we've got Under-14s, a youth team and a reserve side who are top of their league."

His office is spartan, the walls adorned only by the odd pennant and the desk bare save for a couple of good-luck cards. Some might see it as a come-down for one who has tackled Pele, but not Hendrie. "I love what I'm doing. Some great players I played with, internationals like Kenny Burns, aren't involved in the game at all."

'I love what I'm doing at Tamworth. Some great players I played with aren't involved in the game at all'

says, wincing at the memory.

"Our keeper, Dave Latchford,

dashed out but his clearance hit John Mitchell, their No 9, in the chest. The ball just bobbled in."

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Hoddle urged to recall Gazza

BY NEIL SILVER

The GROWING campaign for the restoration of Paul Gascoigne to the England midfield gained the support yesterday of the internationals Gareth Southgate and Teddy Sheringham. However, other leading figures in the game – such as his club manager, Bryan Robson – were urging the national coach Glenn Hoddle not to recall the troubled player.

Robson, the Middlesbrough manager and former England captain, has said Hoddle should leave Gascoigne out of his squad to face the Czech Republic in a Wembley friendly later this month. He does not want him to have to handle the added pressures of an international recall at a time when he is trying to beat an alcohol addiction.

However, Sheringham believes Gascoigne is still good enough to play for England. "There is most definitely a place in the squad for Gazza," said the Manchester United striker, speaking on the BBC1 programme, *Onside*. "When you can do things with a football that make the rest of the squad sit up and say that was something special there has got to be a place for him in the England squad – and even the team in my eyes. I think he is exceptional."

Sheringham's view was echoed on the same programme by the Aston Villa captain, Souttar. "I think it is great he [Gascoigne] has taken the steps he has to get himself right," Souttar said. "You miss a character like him around the place and you miss a player of his quality."

"That type of player doesn't come along very often, certainly not in this country. That ability to open up defences is something which perhaps we haven't quite got anywhere else."

Gary Mabbott, Gascoigne's

former Tottenham team-mate, also believes Gascoigne will be ready to play for his country if picked by Hoddle this month. "I know Paul, and he would say if he's selected he'll be ready at any stage," Mabbott said. "Certainly, nothing would give Paul greater pleasure than performing well enough for Middlesbrough to get back into the England team, whether that is now or in a few months."

Mabbott is pleased his good friend is seeking help for his off-the-field problems and is sure it will lead to a full recovery and reinstatement in the England team. He said: "Paul seems to be doing well, and I am delighted with the way things are going for him at the moment. Hopefully we are beginning to see that because he is getting help with his problems there is a benefit on the football field."

However, Gascoigne's former England and Rangers team-mate, Trevor Steven, believes it is still too soon for Gascoigne to resume his international career.

Steven is adamant Gascoigne is still good enough to play for his country but feels England should wait a while longer for the Boro midfielder. The recovery of his form at club level does not indicate that he is ready to handle the pressures of international football.

"England are struggling for creativity in midfield, and Paul scored a great goal at the weekend which showed that he has still got what it takes," he said. "Knowing Paul, if he was chosen I believe he could still do it, but I don't think it would be right to put Paul in there just yet."

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS has insisted Wembley would still remain the home of English football even if the stadium's famous twin towers are demolished.

Architects in charge of rebuilding Wembley next summer say the towers have to be removed in order to move the stadium north of its current site and thus help accommodate the new facilities, including a running track around the pitch.

The news has been greeted with dismay by many famous players, who feel the towers are synonymous with the stadium's heritage.

However, Sir Stanley, honoured yesterday for his performance in the 1953 FA Cup final, "the Matthews final", believes Wembley will still main-

tain its status as the home of football – with or without the towers.

"It's a matter of fact that the twin towers have to go," said the 83-year-old. "But to me the most important thing is that Wembley is still Wembley, the position is still there, the stadium is still there, the stadium is still there. Wembley is about the name. If you played Cup finals in Manchester or Birmingham it wouldn't be the same. You can't describe the atmosphere."

The Football Association's director of public affairs, David Davies, added: "No final decision has been taken, though there will have to be one soon. Everybody wants the finest stadium in the world to be

built on this site and everybody knows the emotional attachment of many, many people to the twin towers."

"The question is can we reconcile those two factors and pay for it and that's what the discussions will centre on."

Sir Stanley, European footballer of the year in 1956, played his final game on 6 February 1965 at the age of 50, but yesterday revealed he could have carried on his extraordinary career for even longer.

He added: "It was a bad mistake to stop playing. I think I could have gone on another two years but I thought 50 was a good age."

Matthews played almost 400 games for Blackpool but will always be remembered for his

part in their 1953 Cup final triumph, when he inspired their comeback from 3-1 down against Bolton to win 4-3.

At Wembley yesterday he was presented with the first AXA FA Cup Legends Award, and remitted with team-mates Bill Perry and Cyril Robinson.

It was Perry who headed home Matthews' cross for the last-minute winner in 1953, and he paid tribute to his former colleague. "As a player he was so brilliant," Perry said. "You sometimes stood there watching and forgot you had to get in the penalty area."

Brent Council, which runs the district that includes Wembley, said it would reject any planning application that does not safeguard the future of the towers. "They are an important part of our heritage and we will fight to keep them," John Duff, Brent's environment committee chairman, said. "Our planning brief is to keep the towers and we are not about to change our minds."

English Heritage, the government body which advises on historic buildings, said it was still pushing for a design which would involve shifting the towers rather than pulling them down.

■ Tests on Ronaldo, who injured his knee during Sunday night's 2-2 draw with Milan, have cleared the Internazionale striker to play this weekend. A scan has revealed

there was no internal damage and the 22-year-old will be ready to face Sampdoria in Sunday's Serie A match.

Chester may adopt new name to survive

CHESTER CITY will be forced to adopt the name of a data communications company if they accept an 11th-hour takeover bid.

Michael Harris, a local businessman, is launching a £250,000 package to save the club from liquidation. But the deal will go ahead only if the Third Division club end 118 years of tradition by ditching their name to become Total Network Solutions FC.

Opponents fear it will open the floodgates for other companies to make big-money offers to change clubs' traditional names.

Michael Fair, of the Chester City Independent Supporters' Association, said last night: "What will be next? Manchester United becoming Tampa United or Liverpool becoming McCain Chips Athletic." It's totally abhorrent."

The Football League has no rules opposing the move and a spokesman for Total Network Solutions last night confirmed that Chester would operate as TNS if Harris had his way.

He said: "It is an avenue we will be pursuing as part of our interest. Mr Harris is football mad but he is also a businessman and if he can help Chester while promoting his own interests everyone will benefit."

"He will be lodging his bid by the end of the week, either as an individual or as part of a consortium. It may be a break from tradition but changing the name would be a small price to pay if it meant the club's long-term safety was guaranteed. We believe it would be of good to both parties. As a businessman Mr Harris is looking for any opportunity to promote his company but his interests are also for the good of the club and football as a whole."

Harris signed a five-year sponsorship deal with a League of Wales side, Llansantffraid, at the start of last season on the same condition.

The controversial name-change, approved by the football authorities, has proved hugely unpopular with supporters of the Welsh minnows, now known as TNS.

Of Harris's latest takeover move, Michael Fair last night said: "Any businessman who steps in to save the club will be welcomed with open arms but if this is the condition he will completely alienate himself from everyone involved in the game. Football fans follow their local club rather than an out-of-town company and this is an appalling precedent."

Matthews says towers will go

BY MARK PIERSON

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS has insisted Wembley would still remain the home of English football even if the stadium's famous twin towers are demolished.

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TODAY'S NUMBER

7

The number of Real Madrid players on the 50-strong shortlist for *'France Football'* magazine's Golden Boot world footballer of the year award. Arsenal and Juventus each have five players on the list.

United facing a pitch battle

Bonhof's challenge

MANCHESTER UNITED could face more problems from the Old Trafford pitch than from struggling Nottingham Forest in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, has held further talks with his head groundsman, Keith Kent, and the turf consultant John Souter in an attempt to get to the root of the problem.

One theory is that there has not been sufficient sunshine for the grass to grow and therefore the roots have not become properly embedded in a mesh just below the surface. If the pitch does not improve, as a last resort United may be forced to

re-turf large sections before the end of the season.

There was some good news for Ferguson however, with United's Norwegian defender Ronny Johnsen stating that his ankle injury is not as serious as first feared. Johnsen's comeback, after two months out with ankle ligament trouble, lasted just 25 minutes when he limped off near the end of Sunday's goalless draw against Newcastle at Old Trafford.

Initially it was thought the Norwegian international had suffered a recurrence of the injury and faced another lengthy spell on the sidelines.

Johnsen, though, says he

just took a kick on his ankle, and feels he could be back in action before the end of the month.

"I got a kick on it and it has swollen up," he said. "It's on the same spot where I had problems with the ligaments, but it's just a kick and not a twist this time.

"Hopefully by the end of the week I will be back in training or at least doing some running."

The Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, has reiterated his intention to send out his "alternative" side for the tie against the Worthington Cup holders, Chelsea, tonight.

Wenger insists he will not let the considerable distraction of the Champions' League, let

alone the Worthington Cup, interfere with his priority of keeping Arsenal among the leading clubs in the Premiership for at least the next five years.

All his leading players, except the Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, will be missing for tonight's game, as Wenger is ready to risk exiting a competition that still offers the carrot of European qualification.

"Every game Arsenal lose is considered a disaster because of who we are," Wenger said, "and it will be disappointing to me if we lose to Chelsea."

"But there are four priorities for us in a season and the Worthington Cup is the fourth."

RAINER BONHOF, the former West German international midfielder, said after being appointed coach of struggling Borussia Mönchengladbach yesterday that he was convinced the club would avoid relegation from the Bundesliga.

"A ship that has sunk will not resurface – but Borussia has not," said Bonhof, who replaced the sacked Friedel Dötsch.

"I will do everything to make it sail in quiet waters again."

Mönchengladbach, currently bottom of the Bundesliga, announced they had parted company with not only Bonhof, their coach, but also their general manager, Rolf Rüssmann.

The pair had come under fire after the club, remembered for winning five German titles and lifting the UEFA Cup twice in the 1970s, made a disastrous start to the season.

"The current situation is a disaster, which leaves no room for a wait-and-see policy," the club president, Winfried Jacobs, said.

Bonhof's fate appeared to be sealed after his team were crushed 6-1 at VfL Wolfsburg in Saturday's Bundesliga, which had lost 3-2 to Bayer Leverkusen the previous weekend, have conceded 15 goals in their last two games. They have lost their last six matches and have only won once in 11 games.

Rausch, 58, was appointed last April when the side were also fighting to avoid relegation. "Our league position is critical but not lethal," said Bonhof, who played 231 matches for Mönchengladbach from 1970 to 1978. "I am convinced that we will manage to stay up."

Mönchengladbach have remained in the First Division since they were promoted in 1965. Bonhof, 46, was offered a contract running until June 2000. A member of Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning team, he joined the German Football Federation in 1990 as an assistant to the former national coach, Bert Vogts.

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MISSION BY THE FIA

The world motor sport governing body is to raise the maximum number of competing cars in this year's event. The final round of the world championship has attracted a bumper entry of 169 cars although a limit of 160 was originally imposed on the rally, which starts in Cheltenham on 22 November.

SAILING
Britain's 22-year-old Ellen MacArthur continues to hold her own in the 50-foot monohull Kingfisher on the Route du Rhum race across the Atlantic from St Malo to Guadeloupe. Her principal rival, Victor Jean-Noel, has been dismantled about 90 miles from the north-west tip of Britain by heavy seas and has since been battered by the fleet in the early stages. Another casualty in the 60-foot class is Mark Gatehouse, who has confirmed that he is to travel to Spain for the tour's six-day qualifying school.

FOOTBALL
The Spaniard Miguel Angel Jiménez has been voted winner of the PFA European Tour's 1998 Shot of the Year award. The chip that clinched his victory at the Tour de Lancôme in September.

Mac Orlan will be among the 16 Spanish players for a place on the European tour next week. The 47-year-old former club captain has confirmed that he is to travel to Spain for the tour's six-day qualifying school.

SWIMMING
Candy Cuthbert (Eng) beat M. Holt (Eng) 2-1, 24.09sec; S. Hayes (Eng) 2-1, 24.07sec; R. Hall (Eng) 2-1, 24.05sec; M. Morgan (Eng) 2-1, 24.03sec; J. D. Hare (Eng) 2-1, 24.01sec; C. Murphy (Eng) 2-1, 23.99sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.98sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.97sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.96sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.95sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.94sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.93sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.92sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.91sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.90sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.89sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.88sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.87sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.86sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.85sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.84sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.83sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.82sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.81sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.80sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.79sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.78sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.77sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.76sec; S. Jones (Eng) 2-1, 23.75sec; N. John (Eng) 2-1, 23.

SPORT

HOW LARA REGAINED CONTROL P24 • RETURN OF BULLDOZER QUINNELL P27

Kinsella's fate rests with Fifa

CHARLTON ATHLETIC will find out today whether they have to release their captain Mark Kinsella and their first-choice goalkeeper, Sasa Ilic, for next week's rearranged Yugoslavia v Republic of Ireland European Championship qualifier.

The pair have been named in their respective countries' squads for the 18 November fixture, which was moved back from last month because of the tense political situation in the Balkans at the time.

Under Fifa regulations, clubs must release their players five days before an international – and that would result in Kinsella and Ilic missing Charlton's Premiership encounter with Middlesbrough on Saturday. Now the south London club have accused the two nations' world football body of failing to give them at least 14 days' notice of the rearranged game.

A Fifa spokesman said yesterday: "The case has been referred to the Players' Status Committee. It is responsible for dealing with any situation where there's a dispute or uncertainty about a player's availability. We're waiting for its decision tomorrow."

So far Charlton have failed to get the five-day rule waived or the Middlesbrough game moved – if the international had been staged on its original date of 14 October the two players would have missed no club matches. Now Charlton's managing director, Peter Varney, has written to the Football Association of Ireland and the Yugoslav FA, informing them they will not release the players until after they play against Middlesbrough.

Hull City have parted company with Mark Hateley, their player-manager. The 37-year-old former England centre-forward's job has been under

FOOTBALL

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

threat in the wake of last week's takeover. The British Davis Cup tennis captain, David Lloyd, sold the club, claiming a lack of support in the city.

Hull's experienced midfielder, Warren Joyce, was in caretaker charge for last night's home game against Brighton. Russell Slade, the youth-team coach at Sheffield United and a former Notts County manager, has been linked with the vacancy.

Paul Merson was yesterday reported to be considering returning from international football to concentrate his efforts on Aston Villa's assault on the Premiership title.

"I haven't a lot of time left to win a championship again – this season is the ideal opportunity for me," the Villa midfielder said. "Retiring from international football would get me fresher and sharper for the domestic game."

The Villa manager, John Gregory, is considering a move to sign the Finnish Under-21 international goalkeeper, Petr Enkelmen. The highly rated player has joined Villa on trial, as Gregory draws up contingency plans in the event of Mark Bosnich leaving the club next summer. The Australian international is out of contract at the end of the season, and Gregory has resigned himself to the fact that he will be leaving Villa Park.

Gregory, who has described rumours linking him with the Ipswich keeper Richard Wright as "nonsense", also has a 26-year-old American keeper, Marcus Hahnenmann, being put through his paces at Villa Park. But the 21-year-old left in Enkelmen looks to be closest to sealing a move to Villa Park.

Crystal Palace's Chinese defender Fan Zhiyi has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association, following an incident at his club's First Division match at West Bromwich on 3 November. He is alleged to have manhandled the referee Terry Hehir at the end of Palace's 3-2 defeat.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD (Euro-
pean Championship qualifier v Yu-
goslavia, 18 November): Given
(Waterford), Hart (Walsall), Healy
(Chester Utd), Keane (Sheffield), Scanlon
(Liverpool), Harrold (Leeds), Cunningham
(Wimbledon), Babbs (Liverpool), Bran-
don (Bury), O'Connor (Cardiff), Upton
(Charlton), McKeever (Preston), Gurn (Black-
burn), Whalley (Bradford City), Cawcavine
(Paisley), McNamee (Southampton), O'Neill (Norwich).

Football, pages 28, 29

Stoke City have accepted a £150,000 offer from Dundee for Steven Tweed, but a deal depends on the centre-back agreeing personal terms.

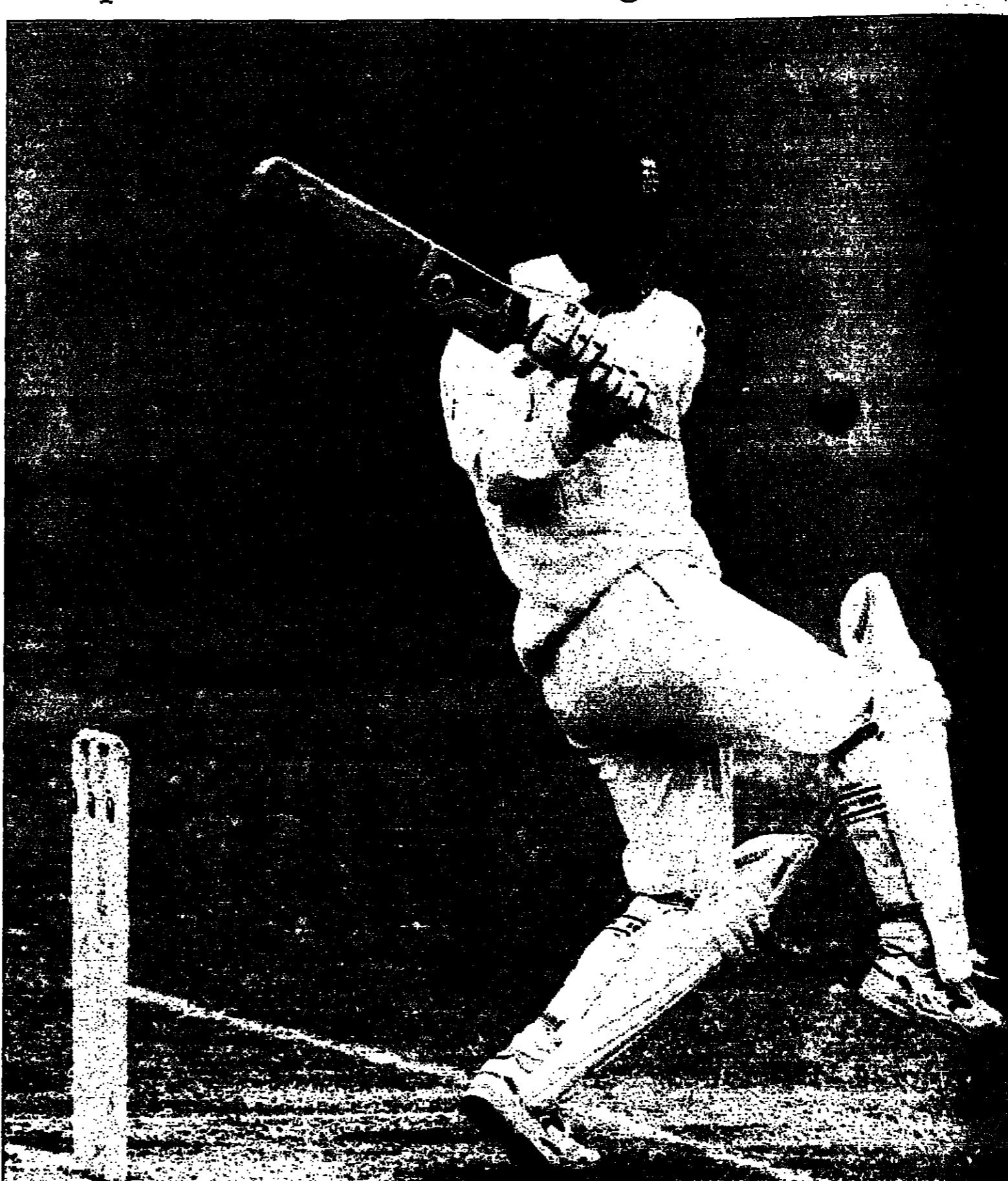
Wolverhampton caretaker manager, Colin Lee, has offered £200,000 for Robert Niestroj, a 23-year-old midfield player with Fortuna Dusseldorf, despite admitting he has not seen him play. Port Vale have signed the Norwegian utility player Robin Berndsen on loan from Tromso.

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Football, pages 28, 29

Thorpe's career-best 223 fills England with new hope



England left-hander Graham Thorpe hits out en route to his record score of 223 against South Australia in Adelaide. His fifth-wicket stand of 377 with Mark Ramprakash was the highest first-class total amassed for any wicket by an overseas side in Australia. Report, page 25; Allsport

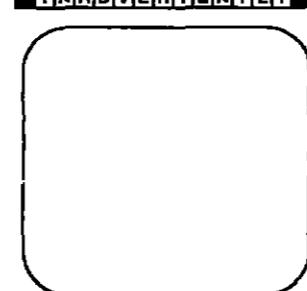
THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3785. Wednesday 11 November

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution

CROSSTIC BLASTERS
EARLY EARTH
SUNBATH GEORDIE
TIDE SUMS
ALSO SLILY SOLO
TOPPI IS SU
EMPORIA PONTER
ONICARD PAULING
NAME ISN'T
TUSK OFFAL LIEU
LITTLE NPTL
EMOTION TILLWILL
DCECS AAY
INADVERTENTLY



- ACROSS**
- Out of favour, our plan up for amendment? (9)
 - Insecurity for every one left? (5)
 - Apart, but not as below? (5)
 - Barb is prudent approaching snow? (9)
 - Finish people coming back in rows of big cars (10)
 - Change direction when composer drops in? (4)
 - Painter of swirling sea-mist? (7)
 - Beef of league leaders? (7)
 - Marco Polo, for example, and the atmosphere left there? (7)
 - Gamines translated as teasers? (7)
- DOWN**
- Regular stock (5)
 - One counts the steps of epistles, taking in millennium feature? (7)
 - Striking supersonic explosion? (10)
 - When most of the Strand, say, can be seen? (3,4)
 - Particular value? (7)
 - Agreement compressed, 24
 - Land at open stretch of water on river? (5)
 - Keats lop off from these northern bards? (4,5)
 - Appearing for trial, team depressed and confused? (6,4)
 - Contemplate trouble in the interval? (9)
 - Protected from medumns in frenzy? (9)
 - The ladies and gentlemen in T S Eliot play? (7)
 - Former partner quote radical leader as agitator? (7)
 - Headland right for romp? (5)
 - A lieutenant on board with seamen? (5)
 - Tarry rope? (4)

FA appoint Mr Bean as new 'sleazebuster'

BY NICK HARRIS

THE FOOTBALL Association yesterday announced the appointment of a 37-year-old police officer as its new 'sleazebuster'.

Graham Bean, who will give up his job as a detective constable in the South Yorkshire police force to take up his new position in January, has been the national chairman of the Football Supporters' Association for the past two years.

Bean's new role – his official title will be Football Association Compliance Officer – will be to oversee issues of financial irregularities, drug abuse, racism, violent play and general misconduct within football.

"As compliance officer, he will be responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting for trial, team depressed and confused? (6,4)

In high-profile cases of alleged misconduct by players,

managers or clubs, Bean will investigate the evidence and recommend to FA chief executive Graham Kelly – who remains the overall decision-maker on such issues – whether action should be taken. If a personal hearing is then requested before an FA disciplinary committee, Bean will take on the role of prosecutor; which does not currently exist.

The role of a compliance officer was first proposed in Sir John Smith's report to the FA last year into the values, finances and reputation of football in the wake of the so-called 'bung' inquiry.

Other measures being introduced following the report are the establishment of a code of conduct, the modernisation of disciplinary processes and the setting-up of a financial advisory unit to give information to clubs. A short-list of 10 lawyers, police officers and people with a criminal justice background was drawn up for the new post, from which Bean was chosen.

"We congratulate Graham and, although he will step down as FA chair at the FA national committee meeting on 15 November, we are confident that he will continue to represent the interests of fans competently and effectively in his new post."

Bean was elected national

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Full story, page 7

Dalglish fronts Celtic bid

YESTERDAY'S ATTEMPT by a consortium headed by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr, the Simple Minds singer, to take over Celtic, was welcomed by Celtic supporters who feel such a move would transform the club in every department. The players were more cautious.

Peter Rafferty, who heads the Affiliation of Registered Celtic Supporters' Clubs, believes it would be an overdue second revolution at Parkhead.

"It is one of the most positive things I have heard about Celtic in the past five years," he said. "It would put the club into the big league both in personnel and financial terms because I am sure the hackers are mega-time. Kenny Dalglish should be able to attract major players to the club."

Among the Celtic players, David Hannay was one of the more vocal. "If Mr McCann decides that is the right option

Remembrance

Sir: At Sunday's ceremony at the Cenotaph, I noted that certain members of the Royal Family continued to wear naval and military uniforms of a much superior rank to the one that they personally earned during their time in the armed services. Thus, we had the spectacle of the Duke of Kent parading in the uniform of a field marshal, no less.

Even if this practice is followed merely for ceremonial purposes, I suggest that it creates a Puritan atmosphere of fancy-dress, more appropriate to the Victorian era. It is hardly helpful to the Ministry of Defence in its efforts to portray the armed services as providing careers open to merit and talent, rather than privilege.

If the Blair government is serious about creating a truly modern society, then practices like this should be consigned to history. If the persons concerned are no longer serving officers, then what is wrong with civilian dress?

R J RUMSEY
Cranbrook, Kent

Sir: Notwithstanding the arrogant dismissal by Dr Mark Mazower of recent research (Saturday Essay, 7 November), the idea that statesmen were driven to war in 1814 by a tide of popular belligerence is a myth.

The greatest French historian of the war, Jean-Jacques Becker has shown on the basis of exhaustive research that the popular reaction to the outbreak of the war in France was consternation, followed by resignation. Jeffrey Verhey has comprehensively demonstrated that the "community of August" in Germany was a propaganda construct; pictures were cropped and faked, the widespread anti-war demonstrations were censored.

Work on this subject in Britain is in its infancy, but early indications suggest that when local communities are studied, the "cheering crowds" begin to disappear from view. It is in fact quite possible that the "handful of principled and far-sighted pacifists" invented popular war enthusiasm to glorify themselves.

Historians for years have been misled by the writings of avant-garde intellectuals and artists on this subject. These were the segment of society which wished to escape from "materialism". To take their views on war as typical of popular opinion is similar to using Damien Hirst as evidence for contemporary British attitudes to animal rights. The whole point of the avant-garde was their rejection of "normal" societal attitudes. The most striking case is in Italy, where Futurist glorification of war contrasted with the widespread anti-war sentiment in society as a whole.

To suggest that the Europeans of 1914 were too stupid to grasp the benefits of peace and prosperity is an insult to the dead. The victims, military and civilian, of the Great War were not the architects of their own disaster. On this 80th anniversary of the end of the war, we should not promulgate the myth that this war was a punishment for the sin of popular war enthusiasm. The men who caused the war, the statesmen and generals, with their calculations and miscalculations, have been spared condemnation by this argument of "inevitability".

I agree with Dr Mazower that we find it hard to grasp the pre-war world. We find it hard to grasp precisely because we fail to understand the genuine optimism about the elimination of war which was so widespread. Ours is a far more belligerent age.

Dr ADRIAN GREGORY
Tutor in History
Pembroke College, Oxford

Sir: Your report on the Messines Ridge peace tower (10 November), did not mention that the Irish Parliamentary Party leader, John Redmond, unilaterally committed 170,000 of the Irish Volunteers on 3 August 1914 to fight against Germany. In all, over 300,000 Catholic Irish took part, with 40,000



Hibernating Houses No 3: While Pan plays in the foreground, garden statuary at Anglesey Abbey is tented against the frost

Brian Harris

killed and more VCs won, in proportion to the numbers fighting, than any other part of the Empire.

However, Lord Kitchener, Minister for War who was of a rack-renting Anglo-Irish family in Ireland, refused to allow these men to have their own divisions, unlike the Ulster Protestants, because he regarded the Catholics as "not loyal" and insisted that they be distributed throughout other formations.

To claim that some of the Catholics were shot by the IRA upon their return can only be anecdotal, since the IRA evolved in December 1918 from the survivors of the Irish Volunteers, who returned home to find that Lloyd George had reneged on the Irish Home Rule Bill, which had received Royal Assent in September 1914 but had been put into abeyance until the end of the conflict, with Redmond's approval. Had Redmond withheld the Irish Volunteers until 1915, when Britain was desperate for manpower, he could have had Home Rule for the asking and these men would have come back to an Irish government.

ARTHUR VALENTINE
Edinburgh

Sir: John Lichfield writes of the apparent need for a British museum or visitor centre which would explain so much of the inexplicable to British and Commonwealth visitors to Great War battlefields ("The memory of war", 6 November). He mentions the German cemeteries which he finds moving – but does not mention any need for visitors to be educated there.

Why not mark the appalling waste of life, and educate visitors in the follies of excessive nationalism, by losing the label "British" and insisting on "European"? Nations divided and hostile at the start of the century can surely collaborate on a museum project which would belong to us all as the century ends. An imaginative European approach to history, recognising jointly the suffering which afflicted

all combatants, would speak more to future generations about our determination to overcome differences than any number of remembrance ceremonies.

MARY DUNK
Alpheton, Suffolk

Sir: It has been salutary in the past few days to juxtapose the solemn remembrance of the dead of two world wars with the tabloid and TV news coverage of the hounding of gay Cabinet ministers and the manufacture of rifts in the Royal Family. If the slain of the Somme were resurrected and sat down in front of a TV news bulletin, would they be entitled to ask: "In God's name, is this what we all died for?"

W C FELTON
Manchester

Eco-terrorism

Sir: I read with interest your article "Police unit to target green protesters" (9 November). Such a move is long overdue.

Clearly, as Assistant Commissioner Anthony Speed points out, plans are needed at a

national level to deal with "demonstrators who climb into trees". Such violent and dangerous activities as protesting against roads, disrupting the activities of hunters, and opposition to animal experiments represent a real threat to our national security. Certainly it merits the establishment of this new group with special powers, and links to MI5 and Special Branch.

I myself have often read of the increasingly violent methods used by these eco warriors, such as waving placards, singing protest songs (timelessly, hiding in tunnels, and, on more than one occasion, getting in the way).

I likewise applaud the decision to set up a costly national database to keep track of these terrorists, given that Mr Speed has cleverly deduced that quite often "the same people are involved". May I suggest that he monitor in particular the activities of retired members of the population, schoolchildren, certain Members of Parliament, large swaths of the law-abiding middle and working classes, and any other malcontent who does not ride to hounds.

IN BRIEF

Westminster Abbey will have been appreciative of the perceptive article by Andreas Whitlam Smith (Comment, 9 November). Nevertheless, may I correct Mr Whitlam Smith on one important error? Through my letter box here has come no less than £24,000 since I convened those who support Dr Neary, far more than the £40 quoted. Your readers may judge for themselves what this means in terms of the respect and admiration in which this outstanding church musician is held by people from all parts of the world.

Professor Sir BRYAN THWAITES Winchester

Sir: All those who feel that a great injustice has been done to Dr Martin Neary, the dismissed organist and choirmaster of

On a point of caution though, I see Commander Barry Moss, head of Special Branch, may lead the new unit. I would urge him on appointment to move quickly to quash any subversive suggestions that in the wake of the peace accord in Northern Ireland, Special Branch and other intelligence groups are simply casting around for a new home-grown terrorist threat to justify retaining current levels of staffing and spending. Clearly a preposterous notion.

KEN LIVINGSTONE
Lecturer in Security Management
Loughborough University

Sir: Labour's pre-election promises included undertakings to reduce road-building, oppose live animal exports and (with parliamentary approval) outlaw hunting with hounds. It has now been disclosed that the police are about to set up a new squad, drawing on the talents of Special Branch and MI5, to target protesters who attend demonstrations against you guessed it) road building, live

exports and hunting. It seems that

many of the people who put their trust in Labour and helped to put Labour in power have not only been betrayed but are now to be persecuted into the bargain.

PETER ALLEN
Worthing, West Sussex

Defensive medicine

Sir: Marina Cantacuzino's article, "Birth pains which end in tragedy" (9 November) keenly illustrates the problems generated by our system of compensation for medical negligence.

Although the NHS complaints procedure is designed to give patients maximum information, the tendency of clinicians to go into "defence mode" is understandable. Admissions of culpability leave oneself open to professional censure (as witnessed in the case of the Bristol cardiac surgeons) and litigation.

Contrary to popular belief, as well as that of many solicitors, NHS trusts are not insured against medical negligence claims and it is they who foot the bill. Couple this with the fallibility of the medical profession, the impossibility of predicting and preventing many of the adverse consequences of childbirth and a system of health care provision predicated on a localised budget (NHS trusts), and is it any wonder that doctors are reluctant to own up and say sorry?

If the NHS really wants a method of telling patients the truth when things go wrong, the system of compensation for victims of medical accidents and negligence must be centralised. This would also reduce the suffering of those who have to pursue an adversarial course for years before receiving justice and fairly compensate those whose children, for example, are damaged by a medical accident and are currently entitled to very little.

MR L J ROBERTS MRCOG
Consultant Obstetrician and
Gynaecologist
Winetton, Lincolnshire

Cannabis therapy

Sir: With the publication of the Lords report on medicinal cannabis, I thought it prudent as a cannabis-using multiple sclerosis sufferer and a representative of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, to present the views of the people most affected by the blanket prohibition of cannabis.

There are thousands of sick people throughout the UK using cannabis and finding it of benefit for many illnesses. If we carry on using cannabis we are leaving ourselves open to criminal prosecution, but if we obey the law and desist from the practice we are faced with the very real possibility of our condition worsening.

It must be understood that we are not hedonistic, irresponsible teenagers, but ill people who find themselves in the absurd position of being denied the one effective means of palliative treatment available to them by, in many cases, the party they had supported at the general election. It is disturbing that instead of endeavouring to institute objective research into the medicinal properties of pure cannabis, the Government, without scientific justification, seems to take some satisfaction in denying us this vital medication.

I did not expect, or intend, to be in conflict with my own government at this point in my life – MS itself is a daunting foe – but this government must surely have the wisdom to understand that we are no threat to society's stability, but just incurably ill people wishing to treat themselves as they and in most cases their doctors, see fit. It is an absurdity, if not an obscenity, to be forced to seek our medication from criminal sources.

ANDREW COLDWELL
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

2000 bug looms

Sir: Your coverage of the growing fears over the Millennium Bug exposes the failure of politicians to insist on the necessary action on the part of governments ("Troops on standby for 2000 bug chaos", 5 November).

Many experts believe that it is now too late to avoid problems and that it is essential that contingency plans be in place and thoroughly tested. When I raised this issue with the then Prime Minister in 1995 I was assured that his government was taking the action necessary. The following year it launched the Taskforce 2000 awareness campaign, which the Labour government immediately shelved – losing six crucial months before replacing it with Action 2000.

However, if the last government had had the foresight to allow my Companies (Millennium Computer Compliance) Bill to become law in 1997, obliging directors to report on the readiness of companies to their shareholders in the annual report, Britain today would be better prepared. So it would be if the present government had not "objected" to my Millennium Conformity Bill, which would have safeguarded essential public services and infrastructure. I hope that it will support the Computer Millennium Non-Compliance (Contingency Plans) Bill, which I intend to introduce early in the next session of Parliament.

Finally, there is no internationally agreed standard of millennium compliance. Thus, I hope that governments will urgently respond to my amendment to a recent Council of Europe report on the global economy (Resolution 1167) calling for such a definition, and for a world test day which would allow good time to take the further action necessary to correct those problems which are certain to be exposed.

DAVID ATKINSON MP
(Bournemouth East, C)
House of Commons
London SW1

Outed

Sir: It would appear that Tony Blair's cabinet is actually turning out to be more of a closet.

DAVID McNICOLE
St Albans, Hertfordshire

ping down any leylandii you see.

• Did you remember to pick up all the dead fireworks from your garden after your bonfire party?

• Did you remember to have a bonfire party?

• Well, never mind, don't worry, because these days shops sell fire works all the way up to the New Year. Bring home all those leylandii trees you've been collecting and have a great bonfire!

• Finally, have a good general clear-up and get rid of all rubbish such as old newspapers blowing round with headlines like "Local Police In Search For Maniac Leylandii Killer Now Suspect Sheep Farmer May Be Involved".

It's autumn – so check your lawnmower for Lord Lucan

IT'S TIME for another monthly check-list of things to do in the garden, and while November is very much a tidying up and clearing month, there are still plenty of things you can do to help plan for next year. So read this list and get cracking.

• Have you burnt your Christmas tree from last year yet? Many of us just push it under the bushes, planning to put it on the bonfire later, and leave it there indefinitely. Go and locate it under the bushes, and pull it out. If you are not planning to have a bonfire just yet, or if it is too wet, push it back under the bushes, together with all the previous year's Christmas trees.

• Rake all leaves from off the lawn. When you are half-way

through, realise that the half you have just cleared has already been covered by more leaves, freshly blown down. Abandon leaf-raking.

• Have you given your lawn its last cut of the year yet? The answer is yes, no matter how long it is. Long grass survives the winter better, serviced, or if you think it won't survive another year, it's time to think seriously about getting a small flock of sheep in, which will keep the grass level down and attract a good Brussels sprout. Sheep are going very cheap at the moment. I believe.

**MILES KINGSTON**

Now is the time of year when mice start nesting in bigger kinds of gardening glove...

could hardly switch on the TV or radio without finding him defiantly there, on screen or on air; but now that he is comparatively safe in public, he seems to have gone into hiding? Not exactly a gardening point, but interesting, I think.

• If you live on a National Trust property, now is the time to make sure your "No Stag Hunting" notices are clear and legible. Or is it "Stag Hunting Encouraged"? Notices these day? Hard to remember. Whichever...

You won't find any, but you will be surprised by what you will find. If you don't want to be surprised by what you will find, then don't.

• Now is the best time of year to plant fresh bulbs in your outdoor security lights.

• If you followed my advice last year and got a flock of sheep, now is the time to put them out into winter pasture.

• Have you put your sundial back one hour? If not, don't bother.

• If you live on a National Trust property, now is a good time to search the grounds for missing visitors, absconding West Indian cricket captains, Lord Lucan, Salman Rushdie, etc.

• Incidentally, have you noticed that before the fatwa was withdrawn against Mr Rushdie, you

dragged your pond for dead herons.

• This is a good time to go out and fiercely cut back your leylandii trees.

• If you haven't got any leylandii trees, now would be a very good time to go out and fiercely chop back your neighbour's leylandii.

• If there aren't any leylandii trees in your neighbourhood, now would be a good time to take a chainsaw and go out in your pick-up truck in the surrounding countryside, chop in the surrounding countryside, chop

JY Miss 150



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We must never forget how we are shaped by the past

MUCH OF Britain will fall silent at 11 o'clock this morning. If only for a couple of minutes, we will mark the hour of Armistice in 1918 with silence. We will remember all those who died in so many places, the names of which evoke shudders like half-forgotten nightmares: the Somme, Gallipoli, Ypres. And although Armistice Day is especially associated with the First World War, those who have died in other, more recent conflicts - the Second World War, Korea, Malaysia, the Falklands - will not be far from the thoughts of many.

Nor will such thoughts be idle matters, for there is another conflict, as yet unresolved, which demands attention: that in Northern Ireland. It is not fashionable in these ironic and cynical days to draw lessons from history. Fascinated with the latest scandal, natural disaster or war, we forget that our world has a history; everything around us has been shaped by the past.

This is apparent in the relations of a secularised and consumerist Britain with an Ireland much closer to its memories. British politicians have, in the past, adopted the pose of exasperated schoolmasters talking to squabbling children: they have not been helped by that subconscious claim on superiority.

There are signs that this is changing. Tony Blair will soon become the first British Prime Minister to address the Irish Parliament. Yesterday, the symbolism of Prince Philip's visit to Dublin was encouraging. He walked, perhaps, where the Queen will soon follow - and on ground lost to Britain in 1921. Such gestures are not meaningless. They are a vital part of establishing normal relations between neighbours, just as much as the removal of the Republic's constitutional claim on the North or the prospective cross-border bodies.

Irish and British history has been shared: those Irish volunteers from the South, who died in Belgium and France, died alongside their British comrades. Only once, on the Messines Ridge at Ypres, did they fight alongside their Northern Protestant neighbours. But that is just as important historically as all the atrocities the two communities have inflicted on one another. The graves at Ypres are a symbol that Ireland can be shared by two traditions, who have sacrificed so much to a mutual hatred that need never have taken hold.

A similar symbol will be the presence of the Irish President and the British Monarch on the Messines Ridge. There, they will inaugurate a peace tower built by people from both sides of the border, and from both traditions. This will be another step towards reconciliation.

Today, we will remember. But the memories can be applied to our world of arms decommissioning and "confidence building". Remembering Messines should help to make sure that fewer brave young men die in the future.



introducing ... Mike Port & STEREOLAB

Some welcome revision from Mr Blunkett

IN THEIR final guidelines on the teaching of primary school pupils, the Government has altered tack on homework. This can only be a good thing, since there was always a question mark over whether children as young as seven or eight could cope with 40 minutes of work per night, after coming home from school. Now the total for younger primary children has been pegged back to 20 minutes, the Government's policy seems much more realistic.

Homework is something of which everyone is in favour. There is no doubt that work in the evening can really boost children's performance in class. David Blunkett is rightly an apostle of learning at home. For years, schools' laissez-faire attitude to homework meant that more ambitious parents could secure an advantage for their offspring, buy-

ing up books and extra tuition so that their children could outstrip those from families who could not afford them. Many less advantaged children need the motivation of having their work looked at by their teachers, especially if the home environment is not conducive to study.

The homework clubs for which the Government has announced further Lottery funding - to the tune of £220m - are also a very good idea. Some children like studying somewhere with their friends; a supportive atmosphere, with some different teaching, does not seem quite so much like work as sitting alone with a book. Learning in that engaging atmosphere may be a way of interesting children. Setting up societies appended to football clubs should make those centres even more attractive. Encouraging parents, especially fathers, to read to children is also a helpful break with past indifference to such issues.

The Government is not retreating from its principles. The hours of homework it has set for secondary pupils will remain the same, vital if GCSE and A-level work is to be

properly considered and revised. But what the Government has realised is that there is no point overburdening very young children with too much work. It would be counter-productive to crush imaginations with written work and reading timetables, rather than allowing children and their parents to find their own way. British industry and society, as the Government has recently emphasised, has always been best in the creative and artistic fields. There should be no attempt to turn childhood into the "grey years" spent toiling in Japanese schools.

Too much work and too little imagination is the bane of our society. Our adult life is well on the way to US-style marriage to the job; it is at least questionable whether this has made Britain a more prosperous or happy place. There is no need to infect primary schools with this "work ethic". Mr Blunkett has recognised this, while still insisting on homework targets and standards, and pressing ahead with New Labour's more creative ideas. He should be praised for his willingness to listen.

I will not be exterminated by the Daleks from Millbank

BY THE time you read this, the London Labour Party executive will have decided how to select their candidate for Mayor of London. As I write, all the indications are that they will establish a vetting panel to judge ideological suitability, thus opening the prospect of a long and damaging row.

Oddly enough, I believe that at yesterday's Downing Street briefing Alastair Campbell told journalists that Tony Blair was opposed to any attempt to blackball myself as a candidate. Although some wicked journalists have been implying that this is an attempt to provide a little cover in a difficult week, I can only proceed on the basis that my leader is telling the truth. He is, after all, "a pretty straightforward kind of guy". Perhaps then, problems come from lower down the food chain.

The internal life of the Labour Party has been transformed. Discontent has slowly rolled around the country over the selection of our candidates for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and London Authority, and the European Parliament.

Most could have been avoided if it had not been for the Dalek faction of Labour's Millbank Tendency, whose self-appointed job it is to wage war on the ordinary party members. We have got to sort these nutters out before they undermine our attempts to actually win any of the devolved bodies over the next 18 months.

The central question for many party activists is that of why the system of One Member One Vote (OMOV) has been quietly dropped by the Labour Party, with barely a mur-

mur from the very people who pushed for it. From the late Eighties onwards OMOV was used by the "modernisers" against the trade unions' role in the Labour Party, and against the supposed undemocratic influence of the activists. The Davros of Labour's Daleks is the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, once a left-wing organisation, now a front for lobbyists and apparatchiks, which tells us on its website that "the principle of OMOV on a postal ballot should be extended to elections for constituency officers, delegates to conferences and local government candidates."

Where are these advocates of OMOV now? The system for selecting the Euro-candidates meant that the selection of who will be on the list - and, crucially, at what place they were to be on the list - was done at the second stage by a joint panel of NEC members and regional representatives. Dennis Skinner and I proposed as an amendment to these proposals at an NEC meeting several months ago that there should be an OMOV ballot to decide the ranking of the candidates at the final stage. No one else voted for it. Regardless of the rhetoric about giving power to the members instead of a "small activist and union-dominated committee", the NEC gave the decision to... a small activist-dominated committee.

At one of the last NEC meetings I attended before I was sent into exile, the outcome of this process was finally revealed. The bizarre selection system has led to a series of inexplicable decisions and genuine exasperation among party members. As *The Inde-*


KEN LIVINGSTONE
We must sort these nutters out before they undermine our attempts to win any of the devolved bodies

pendent

pointed out yesterday, Christine Oddy MEP, a sitting Labour member in the West Midlands, has been placed in seventh place on a list of eight in her region. Under the closed list system, voters will have no chance to put her higher on the list, and unless Labour experiences its biggest ever landslide, she has no chance of finding her way back into the European Parliament.

Christine Oddy has been done over because she does not conform to the prescriptions of a few people sitting in a smoke-filled room. She is a left-winger. To add insult to injury, she will almost certainly go down to defeat while watching Michael Cashman, who has been parachuted into the region and straight into number two on the list, sail to victory. Why were the members not able to choose?

black communities, and the Scottish National Party had an easy time exploiting the whole process.

This is all just dreadful politics. Labour's election strategists must be able to see that this is not popular with the electorate. According to the polls, Rhodri Morgan is popular with the electorate, a situation reflected inside the party, where he would win under a One Member One Vote ballot to lead Labour in Wales.

A similar process has taken place in London. Under the PR system we are proposing for the London Assembly elections, Labour would have won 13 seats out of the 25 on the basis of the votes cast at the general election. Had Assembly votes been cast in the same proportions as at this May's local elections, Labour would have won 11 seats to the Tories' nine and the Liberals' five.

Personally I am in favour of Labour winning elections, which means selecting candidates from the widest and most representative pool, and taking the troops with you. It also means fighting your enemies and not constantly sowing the seeds of poor morale within your own ranks. I just wonder whether there are some extremists who would rather see Labour lose these elections than fight them with an ideologically impure candidate. Just for your information, contrary to what disinformation may be spread in coming days, I will not be leaving Labour to stand as an independent. If I am carved up, I will stay inside the Labour Party and fight to reclaim it.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I went to see *Fatal Attraction*, I never believed it could ever happen to me."
Geoffrey Boycott, cricketer and commentator

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."
Albert Einstein, German physicist



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THEIR MEMORY deserves better than this mediocre display. The Chemin des Dames mutineers, already imprisoned in history, have now been taken hostage by polemic and snatched by the cross-party cohabitation. Jospin gave homage to the men who were gunned down "to be made examples of" to the soldiers who, exhausted by their useless attacks, stood up against orders which were sheer madness - to the soldiers who were willing to

fight but unwilling to commit suicide. Jospin's initiative was welcomed by the French who had learned from school that these men were not mutineers, but rather martyrs. By judging Jospin's remarks as inopportune, Chirac has committed a crass mistake for a state leader to make: that of not understanding the French. *Le Journal du Dimanche*

BETTER LATE than never: official France has begun to

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

French opinion on Lionel Jospin's decision to pardon First World War mutineers

recognises that our official national history does not necessarily correspond with the truth. But we must continue this work on our memories and collective identity. Other taboo

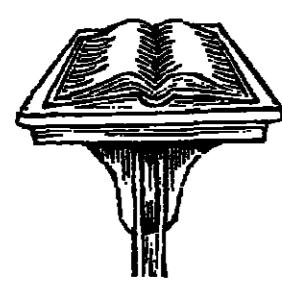
silences which have not yet been shattered. Massacres by the French army at Seif and Madagascar after the Second World War; systematic torture during the war in Af-

geria. There is clearly a lot of ground to cover before France can make peace with its past. *Le Monde*

WAS IT "inopportune" to recall this truth on the eve of Armistice? Should Jospin have waited until 12 November or 1 April to allude to it? Is Armistice a chance for us to exalt our courageous soldiers of yesterday or a time to reflect, with a minimum of dignity, on the shortsightedness and

stupidity of humankind and to pay homage to all those who suffered because of it? Who can be sure? Are we in danger that our leaders since the Sixties have been gazing on the grandeur and wealth of the Franco-German alliance? We condemn the unmitigated intervention of Chirac in questions of this genre. The collective memory does not belong solely to the President but, by definition, to all of us. *Liberation*

On the 80th anniversary of the Armistice, three very different views on how we should commemorate the victims of war



PODIUM

EARL HAIG
From a speech by the 2nd Earl about his father, Field Marshal Haig, at the opening of an Armistice Day exhibition at Cambridge University

AMONG MY father's diaries there is the entry for 11 November 1918. It is clear that he had mixed feelings about the way things were handled by the French Marshal Foch.

I quote: "At 5am the Armistice was signed. The Germans pointed out that if the rolling stock and supplies of the army (which had to be handed over by the terms of the Armistice) are given up, then the Germans east of the Rhine will starve. Report says that Foch was rather brutal to the German delegates and replies that that was their affair. We heard this morning that the Kaiser is in Holland."

"If the war had gone against us no doubt our King would have had to go and probably our army would have become insubordinate like the German army. Remember John Bunyan's remark on seeing a man on his way to be hanged - but for the grace of God, John Bunyan would have been in that man's place!"

My father wanted to insist on strong naval terms, but in other ways the Armistice was in his view too exacting. By hitting the Germans too hard we would build up resentment and the thirst for revenge. In 1922 Hitler proclaimed: "We do not pardon. No, we demand vengeance."

My father realised that a difficult economic climate in Germany would result in a breakdown of good government and the eventual introduction of the jackboot. He was a realist. He believed that it was an illusion to think that the German armed forces would not re-emerge and a war would not have to be fought again. Had the terms been more lenient the Germans might have evolved as a democratic power.

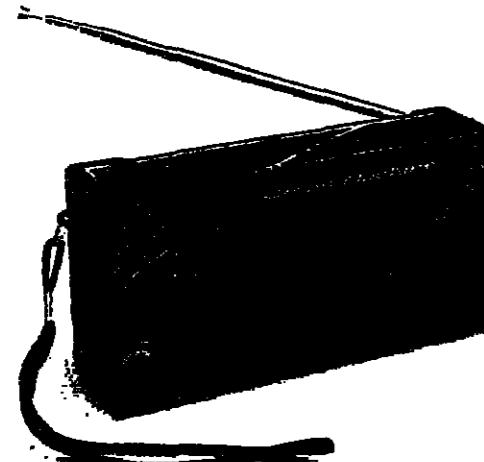
There would have been no Holocaust, no bloodbath on the Russian front, no casualties in North Africa, no D-Day, no Singapore, no Pearl Harbor.

Looking back to the early years of my own generation, we were thankful for a few years of peace. We were ready to enjoy all the pleasures that came our way. When war came again our generation rose to the occasion and joined the colours.

My father was a strong leader. His leadership during the latter part of the war, and particularly in 1917 when we had to take the pressure off the French, was a big factor in the battles of 1918 which led to final victory... For that victory it was to all those who served with him that my father expressed gratitude. When he was congratulated he said "Don't congratulate me," pointing to a nearby soldier. "It is fellows like him who deserve congratulations."

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ROY HATTERSLEY
Anything that makes the First World War seem noble mocks these men and their memory

There was no poetry for Uncle Herbert

IT WAS not much of a diary - a penny notebook fastened by elastic inside a cheap leatherette wallet that his sister Augusta had sent him in anticipation of his 17th birthday. But it began as English adventure stories have begun for 600 years: "Embarked for France."

Ten days later, Herbert Hattersley, Private 2042, the 1/7 Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, the Notts and Derby Regiment, "went to trenches with 1st Hampshire. Relieved after 24 hours. CV Shepherd killed by accident."

After that it was a litany of death. "Went up to trenches in motor buses, went to place where big advance was made, hundreds of dead lying on the ground."

Even when his friends were killed he made his entries with the same laconic brevity. "Our Division made an attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Jack Burton was killed on the same day. We were relieved from the trenches and went for a rest."

Only the final page records more than the bare facts. First it lists "battles since I arrived in France. Plugstreet, Kemmel, Houge and Sanctuary Wood [all Ypres], Vieille Chapelle, Mont St Eloy." Then it repeats the story of how Jack Burton died.

"Jack was killed in a bayonet charge. I think that he was hit in the head by a piece of shell. He was 17

and a half when he first came to France. PT Hompson was killed trying to bury him."

It would be foolish to talk of premonitions. Bert had no time for anything so fanciful. He was a labourer in the packing department of a company who had joined the territorial when he was barely 16, because a recruitment poster promised a fortnight's summer camp at "Fascinating Filey". And although his terms of engagement did not require him to serve abroad, he had volunteered for active service rather than risk the contempt

of his newly found comrades-in-arms. When he died on the Somme on 1 July 1916, he was not quite 19.

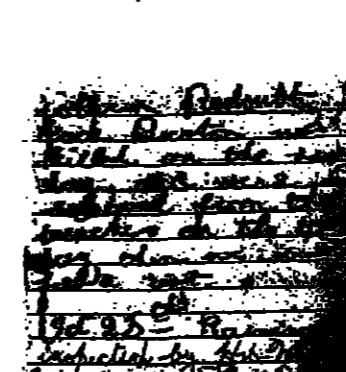
They found the diary in his billet in Bienvilliers. Folded inside were three letters from home. Bert's religious mother ended with a pious hope: "Bless you and may He send you safely home." His father, his 12-year-old brother, was infuriatingly philosophical: "I expect that you are sorry that you haven't had leave before now, but your turn will come." Augusta, who gave him the notebook and the wallet, told him that another brother, Leslie, "was giving Alice Smith the glad eye". The messages were all written in careful ink. Bert wrote in indelible pencil, turned blurred and purple by the incessant rain.

It had rained for more than a week before the day of battle, and the downpour was more difficult to bear than the shelling. The Sherwood Foresters were wet in the trenches and wet in their dugouts. On the eve of the big push, they waded knee-deep through the mud of the supply trenches to their position 600 yards to the right of Gommecourt Wood. Bert, in C Company, was part of the third wave to go over the top. The official history describes it as being "virtually annihilated". The enemy machine-guns were trained on the gaps in the British barbed wire. The few men

who survived to advance into no man's land found that the Allied artillery bombardment had left the German wire intact, and they were caught like fish in a net. Of the 600 Sherwood Foresters who went into action, only 90 came out.

Bert's diary is in all its brief inadequacy, not much of a record of the war in Flanders. But it leaves no doubt about the nature of the men who died like cattle, with only the monstrous anger of the guns for passing bells. Not for them the poetry of war - even if that, according to Wilfred Owen, is where the pity is to be found. Anything that makes the First World War seem like a noble enterprise mocks those men and their memory. They may not grow old as we are who left growing old. But, by God, they would have welcomed the chance.

It was on their behalf that I caused some mild offence at last week's Wilfred Owen Festival by suggesting that much of the poetry that was written about the First World War would best be forgotten. The early verse, with all the nonsense about death bringing "rarer gifts than gold" and dead clerks going "to join the men of Agincourt" are hideously unforgivable. But even the poems of compassion give the butchery a grace that it did not possess. Last week's Wilfred Owen Festival included a Shrewsbury



Private Herbert Hattersley (right)

School production of *Journey's End* - one of the worst plays written between the wars, and a travesty of the suffering caused by the First World War.

Isaac Rosenberg is, perhaps, the one exception. But Rosenberg was a private soldier without misconceptions about some corner of a foreign field being forever England. The only possible defence of those who once harboured such notions is that their false romanticism provides consolation and catharsis for the next of kin. It is a treacherous sort of comfort, encouraging the belief that the sacrifice of 4 million was better than a sinful waste.

Bert's name is in the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church in Nottingham and on the monument at Thiepval to the dead who have "no known resting place". But - now that the brother who urged fortitude and the sister who bought the notebook are dead - nobody remembers how he would have grown up. All that is left is a penny notebook in a leatherette wallet, and three letters. And unto those who would have been his sons, he gives his immortality? Forget the poetry. Remember the men who could not spell the names of the battles in which they fought and died.

Do today's public rituals hinder our understanding of war?



NIALL FERGUSON
Nothing prepared me for the scale of the anniversary's coverage, nor its eerie homogeneity

HAS REMEMBRANCE become an empty ritual? On this 80th anniversary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918, the question needs to be addressed by anyone who is contributing to (and profiting from) the immense public interest in the First World War.

There are a lot of us at it. At least five new history books have been published in the past few weeks to coincide with the anniversary. And in many ways we historians are bringing up the rear. Novelists such as Pat Barker and Sebastian Faulks were quicker to tap into the public's surprisingly long-lived interest in the subject; surprising because so few people are still alive who actually remember the war.

I would be lying if I denied that I set out to publish a book about the First World War to coincide with today's anniversary. Quite apart from book sales, it seemed a good time to get people to think again about the war, as the media would be likely to give it more space than usual. As they have. But nothing quite prepared me for the scale of the coverage. Nor was I quite prepared for the rather eerie homogeneity of it all. A poppy on nearly every newspaper masthead (as well as on my own book jacket). Ump teen at the Centenary. The Queen Mother red-eyed. Relatives of the men who were shot for cowardice. Frail old men in wheelchairs, sporting endlessly conferred medals from the French.

Interested historians (in both senses) such as myself and John Keegan have done our best to debate what the war was all about: why it started, why it dragged on, why it stopped. But I have the strange feeling that, for many people, our arguments are neither here nor there.

Remembrance, I have belatedly come to see, is not the same as understanding. Let me say right away that I do not for one second begrudge the British Legion the money they make from the sale of poppies. And I raise a glass to all those old men who are still going strong, having survived not only the trenches but everything else the 20th century had to throw at them.

The most impressive thing about the survivors, it should be said, is their honesty about the experience.

The most recent interview I have heard or read testifies once again to

the strange ambivalence of the men who fought the war - the odd mixture of understatement about its nastiness and nostalgia for the comradeship and even black comedy of Army life. As the veterans' most faithful recorder Lyn Macdonald recently remarked, the old soldiers rarely use the word "horror".

The troubling thing for me is the difference between their remembrance and our remembrance. What exactly are we, who are too young to have been involved in any way in the fighting or to have experienced the loss of close friends and relatives, really doing at Remembrance services?

A visit to the Imperial War Museum's current excellent exhibition on the history of remembrance sheds light on these questions. It is a very moving exhibition - there were certainly tears in my eyes as I read the letter one soldier wrote to his wife on the eve of a battle he did not expect to survive. But what makes it moving is principally the thought of others' private grief, and not the public paraphernalia of remembrance.

From the moment the war began, a huge number of people lost fathers, sons, brothers, husbands, boyfriends and friends. All told, the war claimed more than 9 million lives, more than one in every eight of the 65.8 million men who fought in it.

Such casualties naturally generated a huge quantity of private agony. The memoirs of those famous men who lost sons - one thinks of Rudyard Kipling - confirm the

universal truth that no pain equals the pain of losing a child.

To give a less famous example: Pt Eddie Sutherland was killed during a raid on 16 May 1916, an ordinary Scottish squaddie. Faced with the doleful task of breaking the news to his parents, his platoon commander, Lt Ewart Mackintosh - who had vainly carried him back across no man's land - wrote a poem. It is a very ordinary poem, to which no student of English literature would give a second thought. It has none of the linguistic shock tactics of the war poets we revere today. Yet it is almost impossible to read it unmoved:

*So you were David's father,
And he was your only son,
And the new-cut peats are rotting
And the work is left undone,*

*Because of an old man weeping.
Just an old man in pain.
For David, his son David.
That will not come again.*

I find those lines almost unbearable. Yet it is worth recalling that David and his father were in a minority. "Only" around 12 per cent of British servicemen died in the war; leaving a good 88 per cent who (like my grandfather) came back alive, of whom only a minority were permanently incapacitated.

Moreover, because many men spent the war working on the home front, "only" 6 per cent of males between the ages of 15 and 49 were killed. Far from being intended to console the likes of David's father - what could? - the public rituals of remembrance devised after 1918 were primarily intended to communicate



G H Paulin sculpting the Beaumont-Hamel memorial

this grief to those who had not lost relatives: for the lucky majority.

That was the point of Lutyens's Cenotaph, and of the thousands of local memorials erected around the country in the Twenties. That, too, was the point of the South African Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's suggestion that all Britain observe two minutes' silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day each November.

It was right, of course, to make the lucky majority mindful of the unlucky few. Yet from the outset there was (as there had been throughout the war) a simultaneous effort to justify what had happened, often using the "high diction" so loathed by Owen and Sassoon. Thus did "sacrificed themselves". Or to quote from the tomb of the unknown soldier buried in Westminster Abbey, they had died and given "the most that man can give life itself for God for King and Country, for loved ones Home and Empire for the sacred cause of Justice and the Freedom of the World".

We can still hear similar sentiments expressed at Remembrance services today. And perhaps that is why I have become suspicious of them.

Eighty years on, I would like to think we have come far enough to question the reassuring assumption that the men who were killed in the First World War died for a good reason. I strongly doubt it.

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. His book, *The Pity of War* is published by Penguin Books

PANDORA

Oliver Peyton's popular late-night basement brasserie, the Atlantic Bar & Grill, what has Marco chosen to name his new venture, where he will be trying to give Peyton a run for his money by offering "affordable glamour", a late licence, a night-club, a bar and a restaurant, for around 600? He's calling it Titanic. According to Peyton's press spokesman, Elizabeth Crompton-Batt,

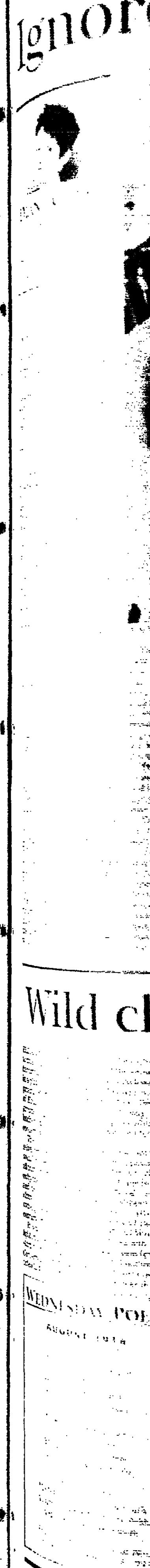
"Oliver doesn't get upset about these things. Basically, his feeling is that, if that's what Marco wants to do, just let him get on with it." Marco's publicist on Titanic is Elizabeth's ex-husband, Alan Crompton-Batt. He told Pandora yesterday that Marco "believes the Titanic will be his iceberg during the coming recession". Providing, of course, Peyton's Atlantic doesn't swallow it first.

YOU CAN scoff at the House of Lords, but then a moment comes along that makes you wonder how

Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Now surely he will be joined by all British politicians when they read the following answer Giuliani gave to a journalist who dared to ask if he would be taking a post-election day holiday with his wife and kids. "I think that's an insulting question. It's not your business the amount of time I spend with my children and my wife," Rudy snapped. "My private life is my private life and you should stay out of it."

IT WOULD be a slight exaggeration to report that Pandora has been overwhelmed by callers offering vital clues about the Tom Cruise lookalike lurking around Blockbuster video shops. However, one young woman in Milton Keynes, an avid fan of Tom Cruise who begged for anonymity lest her fiancee take umbrage, telephoned Pandora yesterday. "This is almost the worst news I've ever heard." Pandora attempted to quell her anxiety, but the woman became even more emotional. "What if, say, Tom has been hijacked and replaced by this bloody lookalike? Poor Nicole: is she sure the man she calls her husband is not some little impostor?" All the more reason for readers to send information they may have to The Hunt for the Tom Cruise Lookalike, c/o Pandora.

Wednesday Review
August 1998



Ignore the hysteria over debt



DIANE COYLE
The argument about debt relief is separate from the emergency needs of Central America

THERE ARE few problems whose solutions seem absolutely clear-cut, so what an enjoyable luxury it is when one comes along. Cancel the repayments of international debt owed by hurricane-blighted Honduras and Nicaragua? Surely it defies common sense for these two countries to be paying \$1.3m (£800,000) a day to their bankers while at the same time they are in desperate need of aid to tackle their catastrophe?

This is a bandwagon everybody can jump on. And so everybody has. France and Germany have leapt behind Britain in a call for debt relief. Gordon Brown and Clare Short yesterday announced a new fund to help Honduras and Nicaragua meet their international interest payments, putting in £10m from the British taxpayer, and making up for Ms Short's politically inept insistence last week that the debt question is irrelevant at a time like this.

Yesterday, the World Bank announced it had already found an extra \$100m in aid and would make sure that debt repayments did not get in the way of tackling the emergency. The need to be seen to Do Something about debt has rocketed up the international agenda.

Yet this time, as so often before, Ms Short's real mistake was to voice an uncomfortable truth that went down very badly indeed with the highly effective aid organisations lobbying for debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Emergency assistance was never going to be hamstrung by debt – but the hurricane has been hijacked by campaigners for debt relief.

The Jubilee 2000 coalition, calling for the cancellation of Third World debt for the new millennium, has helped to push a reluctant international community into setting up a much-needed programme of debt reduction for desperately poor countries. This plan to reduce the repayments to the IMF and World Bank by up to 40 countries to a level they can realistically afford finally got the go-ahead in 1996. While the UK was always in favour, other governments from the Group of Seven needed persuasion. The programme imposes tough conditions on the borrowers; but without the efforts of the campaigners there would not be any debt relief at all.



Are these Nicaraguan farmers helped in the rebuilding of their country by the writing off of international debt?

The aid groups are now using their moral authority, backed by the television pictures of awful suffering, to push for more. They have been aided by the slow and niggardly response of Western governments to the present crisis. But the argument about debt relief is genuinely an issue that is separate from the emergency needs of Central America.

There is no excuse for a wave of hysteria that exploits the death and hardship there to gloss over the fact that there are grounds for debate on debt relief.

There is, in fact, a very strong case to be made for greater generosity on the part of the leading economies and the IMF towards countries labouring under a burden of debt payments. These interest charges eat into the funds available for health and education, yet they were in many cases inherited from monstrous regimes that squandered loans on guns and palaces. The most glaring examples must be the likes of Zaire's President

Mobutu, and the Burmese military regime. The rich countries have had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the "highly indebted poor countries" (HIPC) initiative, giving payments on such odious debts. For little extra cost to their own budgets, they could have been far more generous about the terms of the debt relief and the speed at which it is applied. More important, they could have admitted that Western policy mistakes had played a part in creating the debt overhang.

However, meagre as it is, there is now a framework for lifting the burden on the countries most in need and least able to pay. Crucially, it insists that governments must run sensible economic policies and earmark the extra money for social spending in order to qualify. In other words, the IMF and other lenders are avoiding their past mistake of lending money with no questions asked about how it is used.

Nicaragua and Honduras are both on the list of the three dozen countries that will eventually benefit from the programme. The floods will, without any doubt, increase and speed up the amount of debt relief they will receive. There is simply no need for a new international initiative for this to happen.

Even so, you may object, how can it make sense for the two countries to continue with the repayments in the meantime, when their governments are badly in need of funds now? But this is a no-brainer only if you believe that the emergency overrides all other obligations. After all, there is nothing inherently illogical about paying money out on the one hand and receiving it with the other. We all do that when we pay our mortgage and at the same time bank our salaries. What matters is how all the flows of money net out.

As it happens – uncomfortably for the debt relief lobby – Nicaragua and Honduras have in recent years received more than they have paid out in interest. New flows have come in even as they have made repayments on old debts.

In 1996, Nicaragua received a net \$689m, compared to its interest payments of \$87m. Honduras paid out a net \$37m but was in previous years a recipient of new international funds. Both countries are due for debt relief under the HIPC plan, Nicaragua after next year, Honduras after 2001. The delay is caused by the requirement that they build a record of effective economic policies, but their qualifying date will almost certainly be brought forward following the emergency.

Beneath the headlines and hysteria, there is a fundamental disagreement between the campaigners and the world's rich governments. The latter, although now eagerly calling on each other to do more in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, do not believe in wiping the slate clean on past debts. They argue that this would remove any incentive for borrowers to run their economies well, would raise a question mark over the repayment of future debts, and would discourage private investors from landing

money to the world's poorest countries in the future.

The Jubilee 2000 campaigners want to see the old debts cancelled altogether. Certainly, it is hard not to sympathise with their outrage at the thought of governments which cannot afford simple health and schooling for their people having to repay hundreds of millions of dollars to the very richest governments in the world.

The people are being made to pay with their life and health for the past follies of their leaders.

It is a genuine debate about how best to get to a future in which the quality of life of the world's poor reaches an acceptable standard, where clean water, housing, basic health care and education – the minimum necessary for human dignity – are available for all.

There are pros and cons on both sides of the argument, pitting realism against compassion. It would be a pity if the debate were to be drowned in a wave of publicity-generating hysteria.

RIGHT OF REPLY



BARONESS JAY
The Minister for Women answers our critical leading article about the Women's Unit

YOUR ASSESSMENT of the role of the Women's Unit revealed a depressing tendency to read no further than the headlines.

Your leader agrees that young women face more problems than ever before. There is also no doubt that teenage girls often fail to live up to their potential. We owe it to them to find out more about why this happens and to introduce policies that tackle the problem. Highlighting the achievement of successful women, who may or may not be celebrities, can help young women to achieve more. We are not trying to impose role models on anyone. That would be not only patronising, but self-defeating.

We don't claim to have all the answers. We know the world of today's young women is far removed from that of 20 or 30 years ago. We need to know more about their aspirations and expectations, and the barriers to achieving them. It is why, over the next few months, Tessa Jowell and I will be travelling around the country talking to young women themselves and to those close to their world.

By way of questioning the role of the Women's Unit, you list appreciatively a whole raft of measures introduced by this government to improve the lives of women – the national child care strategy, the working families' tax credit, increasing child benefit.

I am glad you recognise the achievements of this government. I only wish you understood that the role of the Women's Unit is precisely to help shape these policies. That is exactly what the Unit has done – and will continue to do.

I, too, am not interested in tokenism or gimmicks. The Government was elected to create a decent society, one in which everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential. Policies that are better for women are better for all.

Wild child who taught us to cook

WEDNESDAY BOOK

ELIZABETH DAVID: A BIOGRAPHY
LISA CHANEY, MACMILLAN, £20

ELIZABETH DAVID was 20 before she learnt how to make a cup of tea, and at about the same time her first attempt to cook lunch for herself resulted in a plateful of burnt onions. This was not surprising. Born in 1913, she came from the kind of English upper-middle-class family background that had nourished generations of kitchen staff, and for most of whose members cooking was a closed book.

The way to the kitchen, for those not themselves from the serving classes, was paved with social qualms. Her achievement was to change all that – partly in an access of outrage brought on by the terrible food of her childhood ("meat and beef... boiled potatoes... slippery and slimy... greasy... stodgy"), and partly as a consequence of certain upheavals of the mid-century, including the Second World War.

It was some time before Elizabeth David lighted on her métier, but it was plain from the start that this spirited second daughter of a Conservative MP named Rupert Gwynne and a titled lady from Northumberland was destined

WEDNESDAY POEM

AUGUST 1914
BY ISAAC ROSENBERG

What in our lives is burnt
In the fire of this?
The heart's dear granary?
The much we shall miss?

Three lives hath one life –
Iron, honey, gold.
The gold, the honey gone –
Left is the hard and cold.

Iron are our lives
Molten right through our youth
A burnt space through ripe fields
A fair mouth's broken tooth.

From 'Poems of the Great War, 1914-1918' (Penguin, £2.99)

to make a mark in one of the professions. Among her inherited traits were a streak of aristocratic eccentricity and a full measure of Gwyne-Ridley pig-headedness. Thwarted in her ambition to be an actress (she wasn't good enough), she followed her nose to the South of France, setting sail in 1933 in a boat called the *Essex Hope* with her then lover, Charles Gibson Cowan – a flamboyant actor, writer and one-time tramp, about whom her family took a predictably smooty tone.

Truly, it was not an auspicious moment to leave the country. War broke out and the pair were stranded for a time on the Riviera before getting away via Corsica, Italy (where a night's imprisonment awaited them) and a Greek island, and ending up in Cairo.

There Elizabeth found work as a librarian with the Ministry of Information. By the end of the war she had met and fallen under the spell of her mentor, Norman Douglas, enjoyed the expatriate sociability of Egypt and married an Army officer named Tony David, spending time with him in India before returning to an England ripe for the new gospel of gourmandism. A culinary prodigy was about to be born.

There's an Auden line about the impulse of "pallid" northerners, gastronomic ignoramus, to take themselves "southwards into a sunburnt elsewhere". A Mediterranean abundance and Epicureanism seemed the perfect antidote to listless post-war England with its rationing and other deprivations. Elizabeth David's earliest writings capitalised on the glamour of a garlic, olive and sun-drenched repertoire. There is no doubt that she almost single-handedly revolutionised concepts of cooking and eating in the middle of this century, first by lauding the dishes of France and Italy with their enticing richness and unadulterated ingredients, then by rediscovering an all-but-lost English tradition of wholesomeness and seasonal variation.

It was not only her recipes that got an entire

generation of would-be culinary sophisticates scurrying about in search of fresh wild thyme or black truffles, but her whole evocative, erudite and urbane approach to the business. Even those, like the late Angela Carter, who let David's "magisterial hauteur" get up their noses acknowledge her primacy among cuisine commentators. Just when it looked as though it might be discarded altogether, as convenience foods became available, she reinstated the middle-class stove.

About half-way through this exuberant biography of Elizabeth David, the life story takes a back seat. The culinary accomplishments, the

journalism, the Book of Mediterranean Food, French Provincial Cooking, the establishment of – and quarrels over – the Elizabeth David shop, and so on, all take over. Lisa Chaney goes about her work in a capable, though rather showy, manner, cramming in as much social and historical detail as she can muster. A pity, though, that she allows so many prominent figures in the David story to remain shadowy and vague.

It's a colourful life, what with its enlightened hedonism, sexual escapades, pioneering itineraries and strength of will, but it looks though we shall have to wait for the authorised version by Artemis Cooper (due next September) to have a few of the outlines filled in. One thing we do learn: if Elizabeth David had a reputation for being a bit high-handed, this may be traced back to a misprint in her first book, published in an era of paucity and austerity. What should have read as a simple instruction – "Take 3 to 5 eggs" – came out as, "Take 23 eggs", no doubt to the alarm of its earliest readers.

PATRICIA CRAIG



Elizabeth David wrote poetry in rebellion against terrible food in her childhood

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DILLONS
THE BOOKSELLERS

Rumer Godden

RUMER GODDEN survived a poisoning attempt, rare illnesses, the death of a baby son, abandonment by her first husband and destitution in the course of a writing career that spanned more than 60 years. The prolific novelist, playwright and poet - best known for *Black Narcissus* (1938), *The River* (1946) and *The Greengage Summer* (1958), all of which were made into successful films, was writing almost to the end. Her last book, *Cromartie vs The God Shiva*, was published earlier this year when she was 90.

Born in 1907 in her uncle's house in Eastbourne, Sussex, "Peggy" (as she was known) spent her childhood until the age of 12 in India, in the town of Narayanganj, now in Bangladesh. Her father controlled the traffic - the jute barges and paddle steamers - on the inland waterways around the town. The family lived in a vast mansion with each room as big as a ballroom, staffed by many servants.

It was a childhood rich in sights, sounds and, particularly, smells: "the smells of urine and sewage and the lovely flowers of the thorn trees", she wrote later.

She was the second eldest of four daughters and felt ignored. According to her account, her eldest sister Jon (Jonguil) was beautiful and talented; her younger sister Nancy was her father's favourite and Rose was the beloved baby.

"I showed off like anything," Godden said, "but no one took any notice of me. I was so plain. It was hell being so close to Jon, but I lived in her shadow and that was the saving grace for me. To be ignored is the best possible thing for a writer. My writing was an effort to outdo her."

Ironically, Jon became a writer too and the two sisters collaborated on several books. Rumer commented: "There are two schools of thought: one that she was a better writer than me - that's the family point of view. And there are others who think I'm the professional one. Jon, you see, married a rich man. I'm a great believer in the garret."

At the age of seven Godden fell off a swing and damaged her spine, an injury that inhibited her physically throughout her life. Although she was envious of Jon, they were also very close. They went back to England together after the First World War to be educated at a High Anglican convent in East Grinstead. It was a horrid shock to send us



Jane and Paula, the couple had nothing in common: Godden loved literature; Foster, she said, thought Omar Khayyam was a curvy.

Her first novel, a children's book, was published in 1935 when she was 28. She had already had the germ of an idea for an "adult" novel, *Black Narcissus*, several years earlier when, on a picnic in Assam, she saw a small tombstone for a nun who had died at the same age as she was then. Published in 1938, *Black Narcissus* immediately became a best-seller.

It was later made into a very successful film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, which she disliked. Most of it was shot in a Surrey garden, the Himalayas represented by poles wrapped in muslin. "I saw it only once but never again. It is an absolute travesty of the book. I cannot bear it. Micky Powell said he saw it as a fairy tale, whereas for me it was true. The whole thing was an abomination."

In 1941 Godden's husband abandoned her to join the Army, leaving her with massive debts which she settled with the proceeds from *Black Narcissus*. She spent the war in Kashmir with her young children living as a peasant in a house without water or electricity. There, having recovered from a serious illness, she tried to establish a herb farm. A friend moved in, bringing a homicidal Indian cook with a specialty in preying upon European women, who put opium, marijuana and ground glass into their food, but only succeeded in killing the pet dog.

Godden moved back to England with her daughters in 1945 and set about making her living as a writer. She married again in 1949, this time to a civil servant, James Haynes-Dixon. "When I was a child the old shibboleth still prevailed that the men had contact with all the Indians but the women and children were not supposed to mix. We were not allowed to play with Indian children, nor with them. *A Passage To India* made me see we were like the Turtons. After that I astonished my father and mother by insisting that I had lessons in Hinduism and was allowed to visit Indians and speak to them."

In 1933 she met Laurence Sinclair Foster, an athletic charmer. She became pregnant by him and they married in 1934. The baby died four days after birth. She called that "a piercing grief, a sadness I carry with me for the rest of my days". Although they went on to have two daughters,

Dixie and Paula, the couple had nothing in common: Godden loved literature; Foster, she said, thought Omar Khayyam was a curvy.

Already inclined to be rebellious, her rebellion had been further fuelled by reading *A Passage To India* when she was 19. It made her, she wrote, ashamed of her "blindness and ignorance".

Godden moved back to England with her daughters in 1945 and set about making her living as a writer. She married again in 1949, this time to a civil servant, James Haynes-

Dixon who adored her. "It is very wonderful," she said in an interview last year, "to be loved and James was practically selfless. He would do anything for me, but it was not the other way round you see. I don't think ever fell for any real man, not after Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. I've read the book over a dozen times and every time I fall in love with

growing up, growing out of, growing away from, and all the sadness that accompanies this". Although she had declared she would never let one of her novels be filmed again after her experience with *Black Narcissus*, she spent two years working with Jean Renoir on the film of *The River* (1951), her autobiographical novel about her childhood in India.

She moved house often. She lived for a while in Highgate, in north London (Margaret Rutherford lived upstairs) then in Henry James's house, Lamb House, in Rye, East Sussex (and claimed to hear the voices of Miles and Flora, the children in *Turn of the Screw*, when she was writing). This prompted the joke: "Who has Lamb House now?" "Rumer has it."

She regarded it as "the greatest two years of my life". "What I learned from Jean was absolutely extraordinary and I could feel myself growing as I worked with him. He was a wonderful man, a real genius." She went to Hollywood to write the script for the film and hung out with the stars of the day - Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin and James Mason.

She converted to Roman Catholicism in 1968, having become friendly with the writer Dame Felicitas Corrigan, a Benedictine nun at Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire. "I think nuns are irresistibly dramatic," she said. "Theirs is the greatest love story on earth."

Her husband James died in 1975. In her diary Godden wrote: "I never want to be consoled. I never want another man in my life." In 1977 she moved to Scotland to live with her daughter Jane and continued to write. She was appointed OBE in 1993 and in 1994 returned to India for the first time in 20 years to make a documentary about her life and work for the BBC. It was not an altogether happy experience.

Discussing writing, she once stated firmly that she never believed in self-expression. "All these young people, particularly women, say, 'We want to express ourselves', but writing is not self-expression. The writer is simply an instrument through which the wind blows and I believe it is the Holy Spirit that makes the artist creative. My

writing is something outside me that I've been chosen to do and I think that is what has enabled me to go on."

She had not been frightened of dying since she was a young child: "I used to cry at night because I was afraid my mother or Jon would die. Once I was weeping so much my mother was brought from dinner.

She said, "We cannot understand what is going to happen to us after death in much the same way that if we told a two-month-old baby that we were going to take it to America, the baby wouldn't have the faintest idea of what we were talking about." And that is how I think of death. We have no idea at all of what is going to happen to us."

PETER GUTTRIDGE

Margaret Rumer Godden, writer, born Eastbourne, Sussex, 16 December 1907; OBE 1993; married 1934 Laurence Sinclair Foster (marriage dissolved 1948; died 1977; two daughters); 1949 James Haynes-Dixon (died 1973); died Dumfries 8 November 1998.



Sabu and Deborah Kerr in *Black Narcissus*, 1946, the Michael Powell / Emeric Pressburger film based on Godden's 1938 novel. Most of it was shot in a Surrey garden and the author hated it. "It is an absolute travesty," she said. Kobal Collection

and she found herself hostess to Parisian luminaries such as Anna de Noailles and Jean Giraudoux. Paul-Annik was the only son of the marriage, born in Paris in 1933.

The all-consuming business interests of Paul-Louis, matched only by his smothering devotion to his wife, did not make for happiness. When the war began and he realised that he was in danger of arrest, he sent mother and son first to Biarritz and Lisbon and then to the United States. He himself was imprisoned

His father amassed an immense fortune. It is a daunting assertion that, by the time Paul-Louis died at the age of 100 in 1993, Paul-Annik's empire was the larger of the two

in France, but eventually escaped to Cuba, attempting to join his wife in New York. He reached Canada in 1943, but at this point she divorced him in Reno. Many bitter years followed, during which it must be said, the Commandant never ceased to adore her.

In 1945 Paul-Louis went to New York and settled at the Plaza on East 59th Street, while Aliki and Paul-Annik were living on East 58th. They promptly left for England, where presently she married a young diplomat, John Russell, who rose to be ambassador in Ethiopia, Brazil and Spain.

Paul-Annik was raised in French until he was seven, learned Greek from his mother and English in

America. He began his schooling at Buckley in New York, only spending holidays with his father in Canada. Then he went to St Edmund's School, near Guildford in England, where he was a ward of the British court. In 1946 his father won an action and placed him in the prestigious Ecole des Roches in Normandy. His father drove him hard, withdrawing pocket money if his results were unsatisfactory. The shortfall was invariably made up by a kind housekeeper. In 1953 he was inscribed in the Paris lycée Louis-le-Grand, where he studied the arts in defiance of his father, who was determined he should read engineering.

In 1954 Paul-Annik attained his majority and instantly escaped from this authoritarian regime by secretly embarking on the *Queen Mary* for the States. Of his own free will, he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying engineering for two years, working 70 hours a week. He refused any financial support from his father, living off a modest inheritance from an aunt. This was a major rebellion and effectively made Paul-Annik his own man. It also won the approval of his father, and even more so when he defied parental fears by earning his diploma with a high pass mark.

In 1957 he undertook military service as a pilot in the French Air Force, serving in the Algerian war. He notched up a remarkable 1,000 flying hours and was decorated for valour. This achieved, he went to Munich, where his father had an interest in a chain of service stations, anticipating the arrival of the major oil companies from the US. Again defying his father's prognostications, he achieved great success, reselling the filling stations not for their real estate value but for the cash-flow achieved by the gallons sold. The service stations were in due course sold with considerable profit as two networks to Gulf Oil and Getty Oil.

Following this, Paul-Annik became a businessman independent of his father. The rivalry between them was a driving force and it was Paul-Annik's victory that he held his father's respect without becoming his cypher.

His aim was solely to create a much-needed impetus for the young of Geneva. Now they have 70 youngsters in training.

Furthermore, he associated all the small local teams in Geneva with Servette, allying a further 700 young cub players to the larger club. Talent scouts watched them regularly and there were many opportunities for promotion. He also founded a football magazine, *Match Mag*. When Paul-Annik stepped down, the television channel Canal + took over and continued all his schemes.

In 1965 Paul-Annik Weiller married a beautiful Italian princess, Olympia Torlonia, granddaughter of

Queen Ena of Spain, herself a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. The prospect of this union delighted his father for dynastic reasons, but his first question to the young bride was suitably disconcerting: "You are Italian. Can you cook pasta?"

Olympia was as sweet-natured as she was beautiful and she and Paul-

Annik were profoundly happy. They had six children between the years 1967 and 1985, two of whom died young. They divided their time between Geneva, France and Italy.

The first time I met Paul-Annik was at a daunting lunch in Versailles in 1984. The gathering included some distinguished Frenchmen, who had spent part of their youth at the Commandant's South of France villa, La Reine Jeanne. I had been bidden to write the history of this villa. Paul-Annik asked me how I was getting on, and in turn I asked him if he had any advice. "Certainly," he replied. "If I was you, I'd jump out of the window." He added: "You won't do yourself any harm, we are on the ground floor."

For all the drive and energy he had inherited from his father, he wore it lightly. He was less intense, kinder and more sensitive. Physically a huge, powerful man, he was essentially gentle. He possessed an abundance of charm and a highly developed understanding of his fellow men.

In September 1994, almost a year after his father's death, he presided over the wedding at Versailles of his daughter Sibilla to Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg. It was a magnificent occasion, attended by a king, five queens and an empress and 1,300 guests. Outside the cathedral, as the bridal couple stepped out into the sunlight, the photographers shouted "Ici la mariée" or "Présentez la France". When they then shouted "Altesse!", most of the congregation looked round.

HUGO VICKERS

Paul-Annik Weiller, businessman; born Paris 28 July 1933; married 1965 Donna Olympia Torlonia (four daughters, and one son and one daughter deceased); died Geneva 2 November 1998.

Paul-Annik Weiller



Paul-Annik Weiller, right, a holder of the Grand Croix de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest honour, investing his son

Paul-Annik as a Chevalier of the order in 1993

and there were many opportunities for promotion. He also founded a football magazine, *Match Mag*. When Paul-Annik stepped down, the television channel Canal + took over and continued all his schemes.

In 1965 Paul-Annik Weiller married a beautiful Italian princess, Olympia Torlonia, granddaughter of

Martin Eve

MARTIN EVE was a remarkable figure in post-war British publishing. He founded the Merlin Press in 1956 when he published G.B. Chambers's *Folk-song Plainsong* on the origins of English folksong, and worked continuously for Merlin until the week of his death.

Eve is probably best known for the books he published by the historian E.P. Thompson. Eve and Thompson enjoyed a lifelong friendship, which began at Cambridge, where Eve, an alumnus of Winchester Cathedral Choir School and the then progressive Bryanston, read *History of Corpus Christi College*. They had both served in the Second World War (Thompson in the Army in Italy, Eve in the Navy – he was present at D Day), and they returned to undergraduate studies filled with inspiration from their wartime experience. They were young men committed to building a better future, and like many of their generation they joined the Communist Party.

With Thompson and others Eve participated enthusiastically in volunteer brigades working to rebuild Yugoslavia. This led to an enduring interest in the Balkans and perhaps somehow shaped him as a "partisan" – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment that summed up so much of what he did.

After Cambridge Thompson joined the extra-mural department at Leeds University, and Eve went into publishing. He worked initially as a rep in the West Country for Michael Joseph and then carried the list in central London. It was a natural step for Eve to start his own list.

The year of 1956 was a momentous one for him. The Merlin Press began publishing in the spring, in September his political world was rocked by the Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary. A large group of dissenters, including Eve, left the Communist Party and joined the loose association known as the "New Left". Thompson eloquently expressed the new movement's open-minded views and its support for democratic socialism.

Eve published a series of books from the New Left in the late Fifties and early Sixties, most notably the work of Georg Lukacs, the Hungarian critic and philosopher, and *The Socialist Register*, edited by Ralph Miliband and John Saville – "a survey of movements and ideas". The Register was first published in 1964; it became a key forum for the Left, and has published continuously since.

Eve was a man of broad interests and entrepreneurial flair. In the 1960s he teamed up with the BBC producer Hugh Burnett to publish the Monk cartoon books that made a substantial contribution to Merlin's turnover at the end of each year. Eve published numerous

books on English history, initiating a distinguished historical reprint series; and he also secured the English rights to much of Stendhal's work. This is to say nothing of the sailing imprint "Seafarer Books" that latterly became a major part of Merlin's publishing activities.

Brought up on the rivers of England's east coast his father, a proficient yachtsman, had retired to Oxford in Suffolk; to run the Butley Oystererie, Eve had inherited a love of the sea and sailing. In his own inimitable way he combined all these elements in his work, and would regularly take handbubbing booksellers, publishers and political enthusiasts for a weekend's sailing on his beloved Privateer. He sailed across to Copenhagen and Amsterdam on visits to bookstores. Eve wrote a charming account of his and his family's adventures with *Privateer*

His work in Yugoslavia after the war perhaps shaped him as a 'partisan' – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment which summed up much of what he did

in *An Old Gaffer's Tale* (1964), his own contribution to the Seafarer list.

In the mid-Seventies, typically canny and in advance of the Yippie invasion, Eve secured the freehold of a building on the Isle of Dogs where Eve established and warehoused the books, and took on distribution of other lists, notably Monthly Review Press and the distinguished American reprint list August M. Kelley. These were successful times for Merlin. Edward Thompson was in a prolific phase of writing and campaigning. Eve reissued in 1977 his marvellous biography of William Morris and published a series of his polemical essays – *The Poverty of Theory* (1978), *Writing by康德* (1980) and *Zero Option* (1982).

The spread of a new political culture in the late Sixties had led to a proliferation of radical publishers and book-sellers. Merlin was joined by NLB/Verso, Pluto, Writers and Readers, Journeyman Press etc – lists whose ti-



Eve founded the Merlin Press in 1956 and ran it until his death

ties sold well in campus bookshops and in the growing number of independent radical bookshops. Eve was a member of a different generation to those he perhaps regarded as the tyros of '68 but he was always willing to offer advice and guidance, and through the Merlin Press provided a bridge into much mainstream publishing of the time.

Eve's engaging manner and quick mind made him a successful salesman. I was always amazed at the orders he could bring back from a bookseller, a fine publisher and a great companion. He also had a fierce determination, which sustained him through all the political, publishing and business challenges he faced – and latterly in the face of severe illness and disability. Following the diagnosis of cancer in 1996 he showed quite extraordinary will power and courage in facing his growing incapacity, undergoing a series of treatments, and yet continuing to run his publishing business,

DAVID MUSSON

Martin Weston Eve, publisher: born London 22 June 1924; married 1949 Betty Crawford (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved, 1981); Pat Kilshaw; died Woodbridge, Suffolk 26 October 1998.

WRITING *Testament of Youth*; her account of her First World War experiences in which she served as a VAD nurse and lost the four men closest to her; took Vera Brittain three years. Much of the book is based on Britain's own diaries and her letters of the time, especially her correspondence with her fiancé, Roland Leighton, and with her younger brother, Edward.

Edward Brittain had become a family hero after he was awarded the Military Cross for his part in his battalion's action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. In the last year of the war, Edward was transferred with the 11th Sherwood Foresters from Flanders to the snow-capped mountainous regions of northern Italy.

"What a long war this is!"

Edward had written to his sister at the end of 1917. "It seems we'd better have lived so long through it when everyone else is dead."

But five months before the action in which Edward was killed, he had learned that Edward was being investigated by the military police. Letters written to Edward by another officer, while on leave, had been censored at the base. From these it was apparently plain that Edward had been involved in homosexual relations with men in his company. The commanding officer had given Edward a warning of the investigation, and, the following day, Edward had been killed.

There were some strange discrepancies in the reports

of Edward's death: some described him as being shot by the enemy in full view of his men while others claimed that Edward had insisted on going ahead of the rest of his company, and that his body had only been found later after the fighting with a bullet through his head. Faced with the prospect of a court-martial when the battalion came out of the line, not to mention imprisonment and subsequent disgrace, had Edward shot himself, or deliberately courted death by presenting himself as an easy target for the sniper's bullet?

Vera Brittain never found a satisfactory answer to these questions. It was painful for her to acknowledge that there had been a side to his character which Edward had felt forced to conceal even from his beloved sister. On reflection, though, she recalled the wartime letters to her in which Edward had dropped his guard of self-containment, and spoken of his difficulties with women and his belief that he would probably never marry. What was most distressing was not the disclosure of her brother's sexuality, but the almost "unendurable" thought "of how bitter his last days must have been".

Alan Bishop and Mark Bostridge are the editors of *Letters from a Lost Generation: the First World War letters of Vera Brittain and four friends' (Little, Brown, £18.99)*

HISTORICAL NOTES

MARK BOSTRIDGE

Hero of the Somme fatally outed

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

COOKE: On 3 November 1998, to Kim (née Hutchings) and Justin, a daughter, Harriet Jemima.

DEATHS

DYCKHOFF: Eric Bernard Charles, Solicitor, of Chaddes, Cheshire. Died peacefully on 8 November 1998, aged 87. Widower of Muriel and Jean, and loving father of Elizabeth and Roy. Father-in-law of Cecilia, and grandfather of Livia and Max. For funeral details please contact Jones, Acland & Sons Ltd. Telephone 0161-428 2097.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages: which must be submitted in writing), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Our e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Professor Thomas Alibone, physician, 95; Miss Bibi Andersson, actress, 63; Mrs Jane Barker, former finance director, London Stock Exchange, 49; Lord Carr of Hadley, former Home Secretary, 82; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 73; Mr Jonathan Fenby, Editor, South China Morning Post, 56; Mr Roy Fredericks, cricketer and politician, 56; Mr Ron Greenwood, former football manager, 77; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, deputy chairman, GEC-Marconi, 68; Sir Martin Jacobson, chairman, British Council, 69; Lord Jenkins of Hillcrest, Chancellor of Oxford University, 78; Sir Harold Kent QC, Commissioner to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, 95; Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 51; Dr Indraprasad Patel, economist, 74; Professor Colin Platt, medieval historian, 64; Mr Terence Rooney MP, 70; Mr John Shefford, former chairman, Norcross, 85; Sir Peter Shepherd, architect, 85; Mr Kurs Vonnegut, novelist, 76; General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, 67; Mr Gordon Wetherell, ambassador to Ethiopia, 50; Miss June Whitfield, actress, 73; Lord Wolfson, chairman, Wolfson Foundation, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Frans Snyders, animal painter, 1579; Johann Albert Fabricius, classical

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits France and unveils a statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Paris; and attends ceremonies in Paris and Ieper (Ypres), Belgium, to mark Remembrance

scholar, 1688; Feodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, writer, 1821; Jean-Edouard Vuillard, painter, 1868; Gustav VI Adolf, King of Sweden, 1883; George Smith Patton, US general, 1885; René Clair (Chomette), film director, 1898; Ivy Benson, handbinder, 1913.

Deaths: Johann Zoffany (Zauffily), theatrical painter, 1810; Sören Aabye Kierkegaard, philosopher, 1855; Ned Kelly, Australian outlaw, hanged 1880; Valentine Cameron Prinsep, artist, 1904; Sir Edward German (Edward German Jones), composer, 1936; Jerome Kern, composer, 1945; Fred Nibley (Federico Nobile), film director, 1948; Victor Young, composer and conductor, 1956; Cyril Vernon Connolly, writer, journalist and critic, 1974; Alexander Milne Calder, sculptor, 1976; James Hanley, novelist and playwright, 1985; Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov (Skritskiy), Russian leader, 1988; Eamonn Andrews, television presenter, 1987.

On this day: work began on the Manchester Ship Canal, 1827; Washington became the 42nd of the United States, 1889; an armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany in the First World War, 1918; the two-minute silence for the dead in the First World War was first observed, 1919; the Cenotaph was unveiled in Whitehall, London, 1920; the first video recorder was demonstrated in Beverly Hills, California, 1952; Ian

Smith made a unilateral declaration of independence for Rhodesia, 1965; Israel and Egypt signed a cease-fire, 1973; in London, the new Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market opened at Nine Elms, South London, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Bartholomew of Grottaferrata, St Mamas of Egypt, St Martin of Tours and St Theodore the Studite.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Sacrifices II: Poussin, The Triumph of Poussin", 1pm; William Vaughan, "Trash or Treasure? The National Gallery of British Art", 5.30pm (telephone 0171-747 2888 for tickets). Victoria and Albert Museum: Simon Mathews, "Italian Sculpture: Donatello to Michelangelo", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Michaela Parkin, "Turner Prize Exhibition" 11am; Lynn MacRitchie, "Turner Prize Exhibition", 1pm and 3pm. British Museum: Lesley Fenton, "Cycladic and Minoan Art", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Anna Harvey, "A Programme of First World War Poetry", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Christy Phillips, "Images of the Kings of France", 1pm. Royal Society, London SW1: Dr Gillian Bates and Dr Stephen Davies, "Insights into the Molecular Genetics and Neuropathology of Huntington's Disease", 6pm.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich, London SE10, following a visit to the Millennium Dome, 6pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Geoffrey Hosking, "Patronage and the Russian State", 6pm.

DINNERS

General Dental Council Dr Margaret Seward, President, and members of the General Dental Council held a dinner yesterday evening at 37 Wimpole Street, London W1. Mr Christopher Kenyon, Chairman of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, who was accompanied by Mrs Kenyon, was the principal guest.

Queen Mary and Westfield College, London Professor Adrian Smith, the Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, with Sir Christopher France, presided at a guest night held yesterday evening at the college, London E1.

Among those present were:

Professor Igor Aleksander, Earl Attlee, Mr Jack Cunningham MP, Professor Brian Fender, Dr Tim Holt, Professor Richard Morris, Professor R.A. Shillitoe, The Right Rev. Michael Sennett, Bishop of Stepney, Dr Molly Seeger, Mr R.E. Seville MP, Ms Diana Warwick, Mr Stanley Wright

Foundation for Science and Technology

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Foreign judgment would be enforced

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

11 NOVEMBER 1998

Murthy and another v Sivajothi and others

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick)

30 October 1998

Florida proceedings as "unknown tenants in possession" who might have some interest in the properties. The proceedings entered against him in the Florida court.

The second plaintiff owned

two pieces of real property in the United States which she held for herself and the first plaintiff as tenants-in-common. The defendant, who had previously persuaded the plaintiffs to pay over their savings into an alleged investment trust, asked them to put up both their properties as collateral for a loan he wished to take out.

The second plaintiff signed

what she believed to be loan documents, but which were in fact documents conveying the properties to one of the defendant's companies. The defendant then mortgaged the properties as security for an advance. He made no payments on the mortgage, and the mortgage subsequently foreclosed on both properties in the Florida court, bringing proceedings against the company and the defendant personally.

The plaintiffs were also

joined as defendants in the

co-defendants, and that, therefore, under the third case of Dicey & Morris Rule 36, the Florida court was a court of competent jurisdiction by reference to English conflict of laws principles. The defendant appealed. Stephen Auld (Ferguson, Solicitors) for the plaintiffs: Nicholas Stewart QC and John Clargo (Needleman Tremor) for the defendant.

Lord Justice Evans said that, when a defendant submitted to the jurisdiction of a foreign court in respect of a claim made against him also submitted to that court's jurisdiction in respect of other claims arising out of the same subject matter, or related claims. The foreign court was accordingly a court of competent jurisdiction for the purposes of English conflicts of law principles, and a default judgment entered in it could be enforced by the English court.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the defendant's appeal against the enforcement by the English court of default judgments entered against him in the Florida court.

The plaintiffs' claim was fully within the definition of "related claims", and they were accordingly entitled to enforce in the English court the default judgment entered in Florida.

KATE O'HANLON Barrister

"DOH! THIS thing's lost its virtue," exclaimed the Renaissance scholar Emily Wilson as she pointed the zapper at the television set but failed to make the channel switch to Fox 5 for *The Simpsons*.

This might appear to make something unduly anthropomorphic of a zap-pax especially as there was

moments as a battery's going flat.

Reference to Wyclif's version of Luke would surely make it clear: "I have given to you power of treading on serpents, and scorpions, and on all the works of the enemy." And, after all, we still preface an assertion with the phrase "by virtue of..."

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

virtue, n.

not another one in the vicinity,

but it is a pleasingly

15th-century usage – from

the Latin *virtus* – which others could adopt at such

WIN A WEEK LONG ALL-INCLUSIVE CLUB MED SKIING HOLIDAY.

Everyone can be a winner with The Independent this week! We've teamed up with Club Med and Rossignol to give away seven fantastic all-inclusive Club Med Ski holidays for two and seven runners-up prizes of Rossignol CUT 9.6 Skis. Plus a **SPECIAL OFFER** for every reader FREE ski and boot hire when you book your ski holiday direct with Club Med.

With 26 top ski resorts world-wide, Club Med offers the ideal solution for those looking for an all-inclusive, hassle-free ski holiday, so you don't have to worry about unexpected extras! The holiday prize package includes:

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You could win an all-inclusive holiday at Club Med Leysin in the picturesque Canton de Vaud in Switzerland. Offering a tranquil Swiss mountain haven of spectacular scenery, Club Med's hotel-village is an excellent choice for families. Children aged 4 months and over are catered for at the Children's Club. (under 4 years extra cost) leaving parents free to relax and ski to their hearts content.

Adult prices at Leysin start from £488 for 1 week.

Rossignol are giving runners up prizes of seven pairs of CUT 9.6 skis. Worth approximately £200, the CUT 9.6 ski is the ultimate confidence builder offering fun and enjoyment for the athletic skier who wishes to carve turns with precision and control.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect any three tokens in The Independent and Independent on Sunday between Saturday 7th and Friday 13th November and send them together with your completed coupon to 'Independent/Club Med Ski Offer', Ref: 029, Sandylands House, Morecombe, Lancashire LA3 1DG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. All entrants will be sent a Club Med Voucher for your 'Free Ski and Boot hire'. Winners and runners up will be notified in writing, letters will be dispatched on or before Wednesday 25th November 1998.

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8/FEATURES



Farmers' markets offer a cornucopia of fresh, quality food – and the opportunity to sample before you purchase

David Rose

Food, glorious food

Farmers' markets are springing up around the country selling top-quality produce direct to the public. The supermarkets should be worried. By Christopher Hurst

Normally occupied by the wholesale vegetable trade, Southwark's 260-year-old Borough Market enjoyed a return to its glory days over the weekend. For three days, Londoners slurped oysters, sipped mulled cider, savoured smoked eel, nibbled venison, sniffed boletus fungi, chomped Bronze turkey with apricot stuffing, scoffed smoked duck eggs, salivated over slabs of Caerphilly cheese and guzzled chunks of hand-raised pork pie.

Organised by Henrietta Green, compiler of the invaluable *Food Lovers' Guide to Britain*, the Food Lovers' Fair drew together 50 of Britain's best specialist producers. "It's simply brilliant," declared Jennifer Paterson, half of the Two Fat Ladies, puffing on her Woodbine. "There should be one every weekend. Everyone would come. It's the kind of thing that the French, the Italians and the Portuguese never lost."

It seems that many others feel the same way. Over a dozen farmers' markets are now regularly held in the UK and many more are planned for next year. Offering an outlet for direct sales by small, specialist producers to customers, the name comes from the US, where the number of farmers' markets has grown from 300 in 1974 to 2,500 today. Each week, up to a million Americans do their shopping there. At the long-established market in Union Square, New York (one of 25 in the city), I saw perhaps two dozen stalls on a quiet Monday last June. Produce included bundles of organic asparagus, aromatic clumps of lettuce, skeins of two-tone wool from Jacob's sheep and squares of wheatgrass, providing greenery for Manhattan's apartment-bound cat population.

According to one report, Union Square traders can make up to \$10,000 a day at weekend peaks, though there was little sign of such lucrative takings at the time of my visit. Of course, the idea of farmers' markets is not a new one – every one of the 6,000 weekly markets in France is to some extent a farmers' market – but they have almost completely died out in Britain since the Second World War (the Pauper Market in Barnstable is a rare survivor).

"For the past half-century, British markets have been seen as a cheap dumping ground with little emphasis on quality," said Henrietta Green, who is now the patron saint of the small producer. "In order to overturn the idea of indifferent goods at rock-bottom prices, farmers' markets have to be regulated so we know that food is locally produced and to a high standard."

The British have to change their approach to food buying, she added. "We tend to think of shopping as a chore which needs to be done as quickly as possible. That's why people go to supermarkets, though they're quite stressful and harassing. Farmers' markets must be perceived as an enjoyable leisure activity. I'd like to think we'll all be dashing to them in the next few years, but it will be quite a rocky path for traders. People have to be persuaded to go and they must have confidence in what they're buying. Integrity is vital."

Nichola Fletcher, a venison producer from Auchtermuchty, pointed out that supermarket regulations were at odds with traditional production. "They can't take our meat. It's hung for three weeks, so it's got a high bacteria content. What they can't understand is that it's good bacteria. The battle against industrial farming has been fought hugely from BSE. If made people stop and realise that good meat costs money."

Usually held fortnightly or monthly, farmers' markets are sometimes organised by local authorities, and sometimes by the producers themselves. With 20 to 30 stalls, the markets customarily combine organic with conventional produce. Unlike the Food Lovers' Show, farmers' markets are confined to local producers. The Bath farmers' market, held on the first Saturday of each month under the handsome Victorian arches of the disused Green Street railway station, insists that

parson with ordinary markets. There's always somebody who can produce things cheaper, but we're offering a totally different standard of food." Experts agree that farmers' markets have to set up their stalls well away from ordinary street markets. Any attempt to combine the two is usually disastrous.

The Bath initiative has been followed by farmers' markets at Bristol, Frome (where 5,000 attended on the first day), Glastonbury, Bridport, Gloucester and Cullompton. Breaking the west country monopoly, events have also taken place in Wolverhampton, Holmfirth and Lewes, with others planned for Ashford, Winchester, Chard, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. At least three are being considered for London – Islington, Notting Hill and Borough Market.

Local authorities see farmers' markets as a way to reinvigorate town centres made moribund by out-of-town supermarkets. Last week, a seminar on farmers' markets organised by the south-eastern region of the NFU drew 30 odd council officials from Surrey, Kent and Sussex. "It's not simply a question of putting a few stalls in the market," warned Harriet Festing, an expert on American farmers' markets who works for Ashford Borough Council. "You require professional management and entertainment." One US market features a cannon which fires pumpkins; rock bands, jugglers and cherry-stone spitting competitions are more conventional attractions.

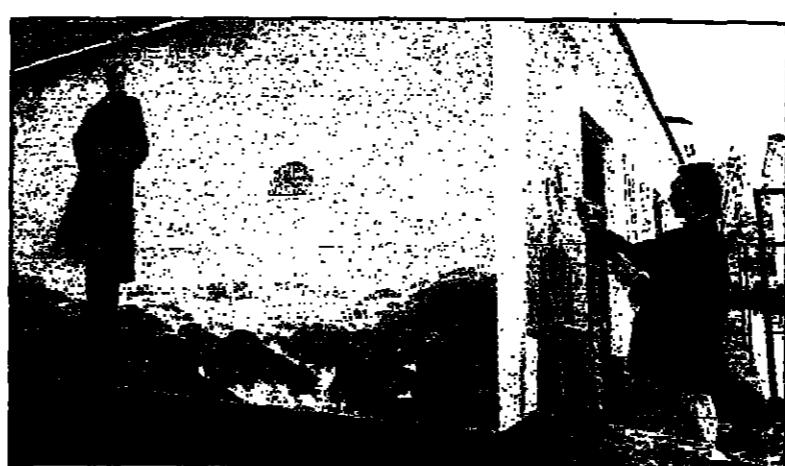
Despite the mushrooming growth of farmers' markets, success is by no means guaranteed. Of the 20 set up last year, about a quarter flopped. The seminar was mysteriously informed that Horsham farmers' market collapsed due to "general trader opposition". One speaker noted that even the groundbreaking Bath operation was "not generating enough excitement at present". Gareth Jones of the Farm Retail Association stressed that farmers are not necessarily great entertainers (a fact known only too well to listeners of *The Archers*): "Farmers may be great at growing and rearing but freeze in front of people. But the truth is that if small producers are to survive, they have to get out there and sell."

"There's now a food élite in this country. It's not that they're rich but that they care about food"

traders must be located within a 35-mile radius of the city.

Established in September last year, this self-regulated venue was the first US-style farmers' market in Britain. "It's not a massive money-spinner, but it does get the product known," said Keith Goverd, who sells 20 different types of single-variety apple juice at Bath. He says that the market has re-established an old tradition. "It's no different to what our parents and grandparents did. If you have direct contact with consumers, people appreciate what you're producing. There's now a food élite in this country. This doesn't mean they're rich, but they do take an interest in food and ask questions pertinent to health and the quality of food."

Debra Bolbot, who sells smoked meats and cheeses at Bath's farmers' market, is convinced the markets are here to stay. "We no doubt they will catch on," she said. "There's no competition."



We have to hope that the leaders are as conscientious as they claim. The net profits of Nanjie's enterprises are paid into a collective account, which Mr Wang said now stood at 500m yuan (£46m). This compares with the annual spending of 4m yuan on citizens' welfare – less than £100 a year per person, despite the low cap on wages.

There are strict rules to prevent corruption, with the party asking everyone to handle correctly any discounts, gifts and favours. Nanjie's upstanding citizens have handed in more than 1,000 gifts in recent years, worth a total of 583,000 yuan (£45,000).

It remains a puzzle who is backing Nanjie politically. Mr Wang gave pre-

cisely worded answers to all political questions, knowing that he could land himself in hot water. He rejected the suggestion that the Deng reforms were wrong for Nanjie, and he did not preach that other villages should copy his model. So was he being used by leftists?

People holding such a view do not understand Nanjie's situation, said Mr Wang. But those with links to Peking's remaining hardliners have written articles praising Nanjie.

Collectivism was a disaster for Nanjie and for China when Mao was alive, so Nanjie's orthodoxy is characterised as *woi yuan, nei jang* (circle outside, square inside). The circle represents the flexibility of the market economy, the square is the strict Maoist disciplining of the people. It suits both sides to stress publicly that the village's economic successes could not exist without the Deng reforms.

The goodbye present from Nanjie to The Independent hedged its bets with a gilded Mao lapel badge in a box with two slogans: "Mao Thought wins over God", and "Mao is human, not God".

You ask the questions

(Such as: Mohamed al-Fayed, do you still believe that the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy?)

Mohamed al-Fayed was born in Egypt in 1933 and educated at private school, then at the university of Alexandria. He has been chairman of Harrods since 1994. He also owns the Ritz in Paris, the late Duke of Windsor's house in France, a castle in Scotland and an estate in Surrey. Last week he agreed to pay damages over the breaking open of Mr Rowland's safe deposit box. Mr Fayed is married and has four children.

Are you a good Muslim? Do you follow the tradition of the Koran?
Angela West, Skegness

I try hard to be. I try to do some good each day and use my wealth to benefit others.

Why do you swear so much?
Chris Lovell, Shepherd's Bush

Do I?

Are you on good terms with Neil Hamilton these days?
Diane Church, Westminster University

Neil who?

How do you feel about the outcome in court last week re Tiny Rowland's deposit box?
Christina Leonard, Dorset

I have mixed feelings. Regret that Tiny's death robbed me of the chance to defend myself properly, but relief that I can now draw a line under 14 years of bitterness.

Do you still believe the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy? How much have you spent investigating it?
Iain Compton, Portsmouth

I have not changed my view about the crash. There are so many unanswered questions. The French inquiry has already taken 14 months. Would it really have taken so long if the crash were a simple, straightforward accident? I have great faith in Judge Stephan. He is a man of great compassion and has been very thorough. I have to know that what happened to my beloved son Dodi and my great friend Princess Diana was God's will and not the will of others. Because of this I do not count the cost of my own inquiries.

Do you consider yourself a good friend of Peter Preston (editorial director of the Guardian Media Group)?
Julia Nardine, Exmouth

Certainly Peter is a man of great principle. He was courageous and steadfast throughout the case for questions row.

What paper do you read every day?
Jasper Liley, Clapham

All of them, but I believe very little.

How do you hope people will remember you?
Ann Thompson, Ryng

As a man who did some good and brought some colour, entertainment and happiness into people's lives.

What's your biggest regret in life?
William Longley, Hammersmith

My first marriage. I was too young.

Why do you think British MPs always end up in sleazy sex- and drug-type scandals? Have you ever been to Clapham Common?
AL Forsyth

I think the general standard of people entering public life has gone down, and the press are far more prurient. But the sad case of Ron Davies shows the tragic consequences of cruel parenting. It's a truism, but if we were all kinder to our children we would have a lot more happy, well-adjusted adults. I think Battersea heliport is probably the nearest I have ever been to Clapham Common.

Who do you dislike most at the moment, and why?
Lewis Morley

I know a few people who have taken a strong dislike to me, but I hate no one and try hard not to harbour grudges. Even the late Tiny Rowland, my arch rival in the business world for many years, was someone whose company I could enjoy socially. We

got along quite well and teased each other mercilessly. We enjoyed each other's sense of humour. I was saddened by his death and wrote to his widow.

Who is your favourite British comedian, and why do you find him/her so funny?
Tina Starforth, Camden

Harry Enfield - he is so wonderfully versatile and subtle in puncturing the pomposity of our politicians.

With your "unauthorised" biography selling well, are you selling it in Harrods? If yes, is it reduced in price? Are you planning an official biography?
Susan Wakefield, Stroud

The unauthorised biography is not selling well and I certainly see no reason why I should use my own store to promote a malicious work of fiction. My true life story is well advanced and should be published next spring.

As a vertically challenged person, do you feel that you are more driven to strive for world domination (eg Hitler, Napoleon) in comparison to competitors who by necessity have to look down on you?
Anonymous

At six'10in I do not regard myself as vertically challenged. I am far taller (and more handsome!) than I appear on TV. In any event I have never subscribed to the view that size counts.

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: BARRY MANILOW, THEN FOLLOWING, EDWARD HEATH

Please send any questions you would like to put to Barry Manilow or Sir Edward Heath to You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Or by fax on 0171-293 2182 or e-mail to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk - by noon on Friday, 13 November



Don't you think that it is inappropriate for short people, especially yourself, to wear Prince of Wales check suits?
Ion Tyszkiewicz

As they say in the House, I refer you to my previous answer. My own taste is, of course, impeccable.

When and where did you see your first football match?
Ivor Davies, Merthyr Tydfil

In Alexandria, when I was 12. The game was Wolves vs Royal Navy.

What happened to the beautiful bronze lifts in Harrods, and why were they removed?
Michael Hugh, Nayland

The six magnificent lifts to which you refer were removed to make way for the Egyptian escalator in the centre of Harrods. They are all listed and are now in storage. They are in good condition and we have plans to use them again in a future expansion.

Who do you think is against your citizenship application? How many MPs do you think work for the security services?
Anon

The Home Secretary, and he alone, will make the decision on my citizenship application. I have every confidence that it will be considered fairly and without prejudice. It is no secret that my exposure of political corruption in the last Conservative government made me some pretty

unpopular.

I do not read *Private Eye* but am told I feature regularly. It's nice to be popular and give people pleasure. For satire with real bite and spice I read *Punch*. England's best qualities are its tolerance and good humour.



IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

17: DYSONS BY HETTIE JUDAH



SINCE THE day the DC02 was launched, members of the style press seem to have been stuck so far up Dyson's fundament that no amount of dual cyclone suction could get them out again; as far as I can tell they languish there still.

I am usually immune to the vagaries of fashion, but about a year ago I began to succumb to Dysonmania. I could identify with the user group: I lived away from my parents, occasionally drank bottled beer and would never have dreamt of laminating my monthly travel card; dammit, I was young and hep.

I bought myself a Dyson

because, quite frankly, I was worth it, and God forbid, I wouldn't want anyone to think I was unhygienic or anything.

So I began to use Dyson on quite a regular basis. To start with, it was quite fun. It arrived in December and I derived hours of entertainment from vacuuming along the branches of the Christmas tree and watching all the needles and bits of glass mound up inside the clear plastic dust bin.

After a while I started using it for more everyday tasks - cleaning the floor and such like.

It was around that time

that I started noticing little problems with my DC02, such as, for instance, it didn't suck very well. This is not such a great problem in the grand scheme of things, but a fairly fundamental flaw in a vacuum cleaner.

At one of those amusing little cheese and wine parties so beloved of appliance junkies, I mentioned my new Dyson to a fellow cabinet-swilling guest. He had one too.

"I say, yours work?" he whispered.

"Not very well; it's kind of noisy and it doesn't suck much," I replied.

"Gosh, that's a relief; we

just assumed it was because we were a bit, well, dirty, you know, and it couldn't cope."

It turned out that we were not alone; the Dyson DC02 may maintain 100 per cent of its original suction, but the suction itself is just not as good as a normal vacuum cleaner. In addition, it is very noisy, doesn't quite get into corners, and has problems with animal hairs.

It may have no bag, but to empty the bowl you have to tip it into a bin, which sends a cloud of grime back out into the atmosphere. And that cute little see-through dust bowl? Gets

covered in disfiguring dust, as does most of the internal components.

Dyson recommend washing it out with soap and water, which is just a little more hands-on than I want to get with my discarded skin particles, thank you very much. And for the £14-odd you save a year on Hoover bags, you get to spend £37 on changing the filters.

For a work of art, it is a price worth paying, yet the more I look at the over-designed DC02, the uglier it gets - the stewed liver grey, four grape and mental-health-ward yellow colour scheme that can only have

been inspired by a Pony Club tie; the hideous Fisher Price-style chunky styling; the static plastic that the dust so loves to stick to.

The DC02 arrived at a time when the world was out to slam Hoover. Not only were we desperate for a new appliance king; we were desperate for British heroes. With the DC02 Dyson was selling new technology that he flattered us we could understand.

He had just the right mix of nutty inventiveness and derring-do for us to take him and his invention to our hearts. No questions asked. Perhaps that is where we messed up.



Late 1930s black dress with silver-stencilled roses, £750, hat with net trim from a selection. Photographer: Anna Stevenson, stylist: Holly Wood, make-up: Helen Walsh at GSM using Bobbi Brown Hair; Sacha Mascolo for Toni & Guy, using TIGI Haircare products; model: Marie-Claire at Select. All clothes from Virginia, 98 Portland Road Holland Park W11, enquiries, 0171-727 9908



1920s gold devore cape, £400, 1930s midnight blue velvet dress, £650, both from Virginia in Holland Park, London (see details below)



Thirties red satin bias cut dress, £750, and long Edwardian beaded tasseled scarf, worn as headband, £200



Hig
from

Hold that frock for Galliano

A basement shop in Holland Park is a place of pilgrimage for fashion designers, cinema divas and models. By Tamsin Blanchard



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At this time of year, fashion designers leave their ivy-towered studios to take great gulps of fresh air and go in search of new ideas and inspiration. Just weeks after the spring/summer '99 collections of New York, London, Paris and Milan are over, they are already history in the minds of those who created them. By the end of this month, the next egg, the one stamped autumn/winter '99/2000, must be hatched.

One research destination that has become a priority for many designers - Donna Karan, John Galliano, Stella McCartney, Ralph Lauren and Antonio Berardi to name a few - is a tiny shop tucked away in one of the most undiscovered and fashionable corners of Holland Park. You do not need to make an appointment. Nor will you be requested to handle the clothes with gloves. And best of all - unlike at the V&A or the Costume Museum in Bath - everything has a price tag.

In the three years that Virginia has been specialising in pre-Forties clothing (previously Virginia Bates sold Victorian baths and antique plumbing equipment), the shop has become a place of pilgrimage for those in the know in the fashion world. It is the sort of shop that a designer will board Concorde to spend a few hours in. For the past couple of weeks, Virginia's has been a hive of activity, shiny limos parked outside while some of the world's most influential designers do some shopping in the name of research and development. What you see hanging on the rails in Virginia's this week might find its way on to the catwalk next spring and into the high street by next autumn.

The average gestation period for a collection can last from around three to four months. But finding the starting point for a collection always proves the most difficult part. And the research that goes into the making of a collection is thorough and all-encompassing. No stone will be left unturned, be it an exhibition, film, play or library. At this time of year and again in April, many fashion designers become the academics of their field. Long days will be spent in libraries, galleries and the vaults of

costume museums, working through the fragile pieces of fashion history.

Fashion designers like to find inspiration from old clothes. They will trawl the flea markets of New York, the markets of Greenwich and Camden and every vintage clothing store they can find to seek out a detail for a sleeve here, a patch of beading or embroidery there. Sometimes they will be inspired by the cut of a dress, or the style of a collar. Other times they will cut and copy. At Virginia's, they don't have to look very hard. It is not a case of rummaging through bargain boxes and hunting through the rails. The pieces of clothing at Virginia's hit you right between the eyes.

"It's got to be a wow piece or I won't buy it," says Virginia, a blonde-haired Bohemian who looks as though she might have been a Sixties rock star in a previous life. She has eyes and ears up and down the country on the look-out for new finds. "The days are gone when a little old lady would come in with a bin bag of treasure," says Virginia ruefully. Often, clothes are shrouded in mystery when she acquires them. "A lot of pieces were couture made for Lady So-and-So. I never get to know exactly who they belonged to because people can be secretive. But most of the clothes have had one owner." This is the reason her stock is in such good condition. "In those days women didn't wear Manolo Blahnik shoes that went straight through the hem of a chiffon dress. Women were dressed by a maid."

She knows her stuff, not in a boring museum curator way but in the way of a woman who is passionate about clothes, and who has an eye for

much of which she wears, is packed with gems that designers - and museum curators - would like to get their hands on.

Stepping into Virginia's is like stepping into another world where credit cards and cheques are but sordid details. The windows seduce you with their jumble of Victorian dresses, bugle-headed scarves, multicoloured sequined evening capes. The afternoon I visited, a customer was busy downstairs in the heart of the shop, seemingly trying on every piece that fitted her. She had flown over for the day from Germany, for the sole purpose of a spree at the shop. She spent over an hour with Jo, Virginia's assistant, who was at her beck and call. Eventually, she emerged from the basement boudoir with an armful of one-off clothes which were packed up for her flight home in return for a sum I roughly calculated to be in excess of £4,000. She rang a few days later to buy a coat she'd regretted leaving behind.

"I want people to be happy," says Virginia. "I want my customers to feel special." So when Naomi Campbell's limousine pulls up outside the shop at five o'clock, it is all part of Virginia's service to stay open for a little late-night shopping. When Demi Moore paid a visit, she stayed until midnight, and left with around 30 pieces. But although Demi has designers clamouring to dress her, she knows that when she wears Virginia's clothes (and they are all tucked with Virginia's own discreet little label) she will never run into anyone else wearing the same dress.

Indeed, when Virginia finds something she loves, she won't part with it for any price. Her private collection, which she wears, is packed with gems that designers - and museum curators - would like to get their hands on.

make them like that any more.

This month's American *Vogue* cover girl, Amber Valletta, is another Virginia's fan. She apparently goes for the "really pretty things" and is known for her unique dress sense. At the party thrown in September for British imports at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, Amber wore an amazing antique Chinese coat. Such is her influence in the fashion world, Virginia was flown over for the event too and was given her own section of the department store for two weeks; she transported her stock and the atmosphere of the shop to New York, carrying a Victorian corset, a handful of ostrich feathers, some silk flowers and four 19th-century curtains in her hand luggage.

Usually, however, the fashion world comes to Virginia. On Monday, it was Gucci. Last week, John Galliano paid a visit. He has been "shopping" at Virginia's for the past two years and invites her to his shows. When he invited her to Paris last season he chauffeured her and her suitcase of treasure from the station to his studio for lunch. "He's been such an inspiration for me," she says. "In a way, he made me decide to concentrate on clothes. He made me realise I have a flair for it." Whenever new stock comes in, she will put pieces aside that she thinks Galliano might want. The same goes for Ralph Lauren or Gucci. "They buy my discretion," she says.

The fashion world has changed as a result of this little basement in Holland Park. When I see something of mine on the catwalk, I think, yes, I was right. The haggle, the wheeler-dealer and the hunch are all paid off."

It seems crazy that nobody has thought to put Virginia on their payroll, as a researcher or consultant. But perhaps it is better that way. Even if you can't afford to buy anything there, Virginia's is one of the few places you can go and see magnificent pieces of fashion history and craft in the flesh. For her it is an addiction - she says she is looking for something that will give her a hit. But for anyone else who simply wants to go and fantasise, spot a designer on the prowl - or be tempted by a dress for the party season - there is no better place.



Virginia Bates Emma Boam

YOUNG CATWALK PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

The Independent, in conjunction with Clothes Show Live '98, The British Heart Foundation and Olympus, is out to find the young catwalk photographer of the year for the second year running. A panel of judges will choose five finalists to attend Clothes Show Live '98 on 4 December; when they will photograph a catwalk show. The winning picture will be chosen from those taken on the day.

Send three photographs which capture the "Heart of Fashion" (they can be in any format, and in either black-and-white or colour), to Young Catwalk Photographer of the Year; *The Independent* (Fashion), 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, to arrive no later than 25 November 1998. Caption each picture, and include your name and address. We regret that we are unable to return any pictures submitted. The judges' decision is final. The Prizes The winner will receive an OM 2000 camera plus kit, including a lens and flash, and work experience with *The Independent's* catwalk photographer during London Fashion Week in February 1999. The winning shot will be published in *The Independent*, and also in Clothes Show Live '98 publicity material. Two runners-up will receive an IS10 camera plus kit. Cameras supplied by Olympus.

The oral

CLOTHING

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Percy's

Highlights from a low life

The writer Charles Bukowski died in 1994, yet his legend lives on. Indeed, it's been industrialised. By Declan O'Neill

One badge reads "Nobody's ugly after 2am"; another says, "I'm lying, but believe me it's true". Both are quotes from Charles Bukowski, the American poet and author who died in 1994. On the one hand the badges, produced for an exhibition in London, are frivolous pieces of merchandise; on the other, they are signifiers of the immense appeal to popular culture of the man referred to by critics as "the flop-house laureate".

He also said – though it wouldn't fit on a badge – "Even though I write about the human race, the further away I am from them, the better I feel. Two inches is great. Two miles is great. Two thousand miles is beautiful."

Misanthropy is part of the Bukowski allure: certainly it was no deterrent to the 3,000 or so devotees who made the pilgrimage to a 1996 exhibition of his first editions. Farah slacks, handkerchiefs, betting slips, T-shirts, pens, ashtrays, bottle openers, reading glasses and even his sleeping-mask.

The spin-offs since his death include a rash of memoirs (one, by an old girlfriend, was called *Blowing My Hero*), movies, CDs, videos, documentaries, fanzines and websites. Universities buy up his letters and collectors fight over the few surviving editions of his early books. As many poems as were printed in his lifetime (some of them of questionable quality) await eventual publication, and though the whole story has yet to be told, Howard Sounes's excellent new biography, *Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*, is an excellent place to start.

Dirty realism came easily to Bukowski and he came to dominate the genre with his chronicles of drinking, whoring and gambling.

"If something terrible happens," he wrote in *Women*, "you drink to forget it; if something good happens you drink to celebrate... and if nothing happens, you drink to make something happen."

Once described as "a big hunchback, with a ravaged, pockmarked face, de-

cayed, nicotine-stained teeth and pain-filled eyes," he made an unlikely celebrity. From drifter beginnings, working at odd jobs in spurs then writing with a pencil stub in freezing lodgings, came more than 45 books of poetry and prose, translated into more than a dozen languages. After his death there was even the obligatory tissue over the million-dollar estate.

Bukowski's widow, Linda, considered opening their San Pedro home as a museum. A couple of years after his death Kevin Ring, editor of the English magazine *Beast Scene*, published AD Winans' memoir *The Charles Bukowski Second Coming Years*, including a poem by Bukowski that gave what Ring says were "explicit directions on how to get to [his] house. We sent her the book and thought, 'Oh, she'll like this,' and she said, 'I've got the book – great, but I'm going to kill you!'

So what's the fuss about? Sounes describes the Bukowski philosophy as "a rejection of drudgery and imposed rules, of mendacity and pretentiousness; an acceptance that human lives are often wretched and that people are frequently cruel to one another; but that life can also be beautiful, sexy and funny."

Bukowski realised early on that the trick lay in being himself. From Ernest Hemingway and John Fante he took a stripped-down style, heavy on dialogue – "the spoken word nailed to paper", as the critic John Corrington put it.

Bukowski was born in 1920 and was nearly 50, pot-marked and pot-bellied, when his career took off. The low-life counterpart to a cultural revolution predicated upon youth and beauty. His break came when John Martin, the manager of an office supply company, sold off his library of first editions to set up Black Sparrow Press. In 1971, Bukowski quit his Post Office job (a postman for two years and sorter for nine) to write full-time for Black Sparrow which, largely through his earning power, built up an annual turnover of more than \$1m.

"Fame is the last whore," he wrote in the poem "Supposedly Famous", and the

There was plenty of time to entertain the procession of women desperate for an encounter with the man behind "Notes of a Dirty Old Man", the column he wrote for the Los Angeles alternative paper *Open City*, and at night he would stroll up to his local coffee stand, where he would often meet a comic book distributor, George DiCaprio (father of Leo). In Sounes' biography, DiCaprio recalls Christmas Eve, 1975. He was washing up after dinner with his mother when a drunken Bukowski burst in. "You know it's just a few inches that separates a man from paradise," he said, his voice rising to a yell, "that prevents a man from sucking his own cock!"

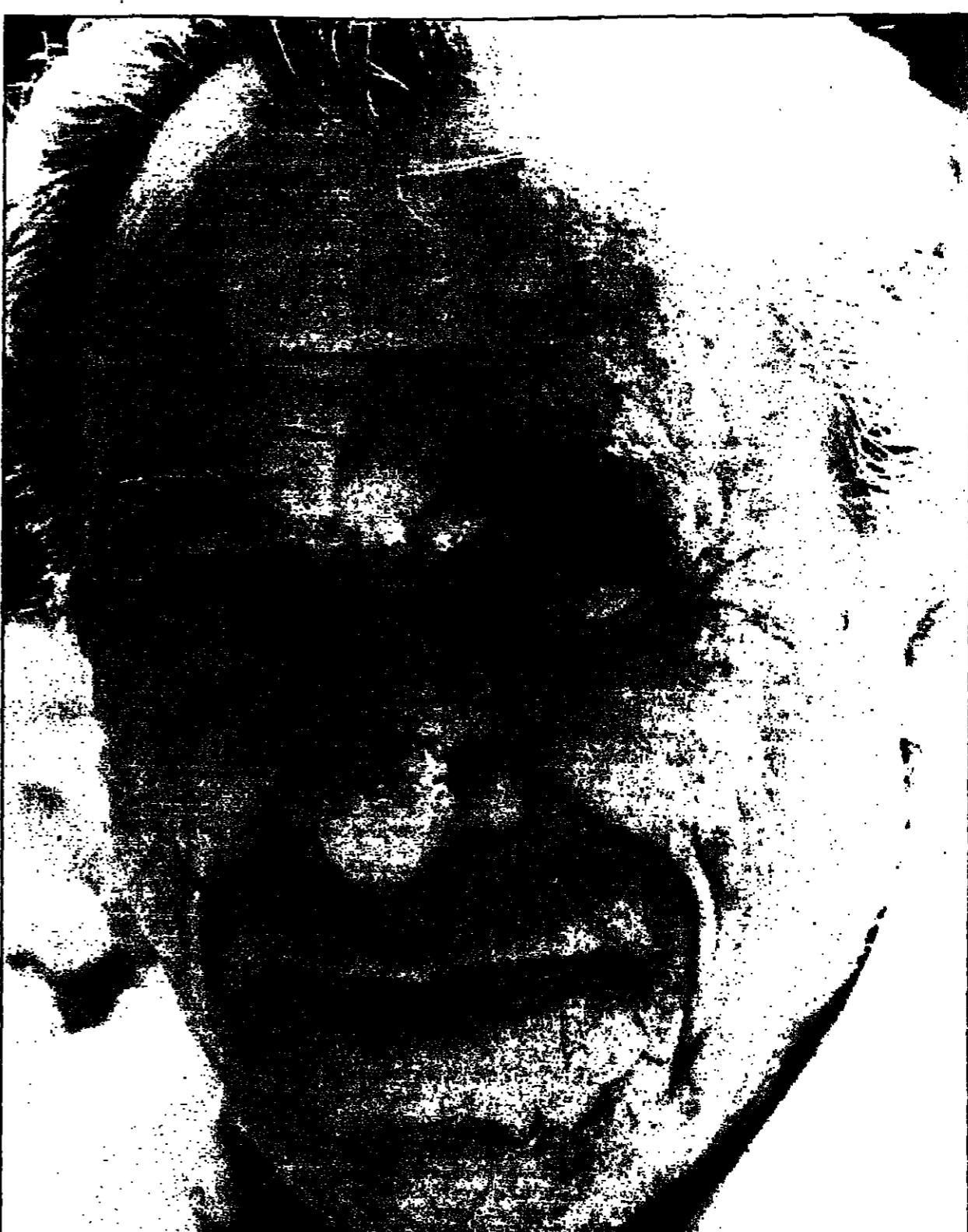
Though he was never without a voice in his own country, Bukowski has always spoken most loudly to European sensibilities – the 1971 novel *Post Office* sold 75,000 at home and 500,000 copies abroad. In Germany, the country his parents left when he was two, he built up a huge following through his readings, the Germans seeing him, he said, a mixture of "Bogart, Hemingway and Jack the Ripper." They loved him in France, too, after his drunken appearance on a TV talk show. After asking to see more of a female guest's legs – to see how good a writer she was, he said – and calling the host a "fucking son of a bitch asshole," he bid her au revoir.

"He didn't remember anything, of course," recalls Barbet Schroeder, director of the film *Barfly*, "but the whole of France was running to buy his books."

There were two earlier European films, *Crazy Love* (which Bukowski considered the best account of his work), and *Thales of Ordinary Madness*, starring Ben Gazzara, whose portrayal of him Bukowski hated, saying he had "eyes like a constipated man sitting on the pot straining to crap".

Grudging recognition finally came from the literary mainstream on the back of *Barfly*, the Mickey Rourke and Faye Dunaway vehicle for which Bukowski wrote the screenplay, and in which he appeared as a drunk. He didn't need much of a screen test.

"Fame is the last whore," he wrote in the poem "Supposedly Famous", and the



Bukowski – writer, drinker, philosopher: "It's just a few inches that separate a man from paradise"

Re

financial security accrued from *Barfly's* modest success – he drove to his beloved racecourse in a BMW, ate with Sean Penn and Madonna, and abandoned his typewriter for an Apple Mac – removed him from the margins and too often blunted his edge.

Still, in his dotage Bukowski produced at least one collection, *Last Night of the Earth Poems*, that ranks among his finest work. The flow of letters never ceased, and

he carried on contributing to small magazines such as *Beast Scene*. He remained faithful to Black Sparrow, refusing huge advances from one of the larger publishing houses in favour of what he called "uncensored acceptability".

He said in 1974: "It may sound egotistical, but I think I'll be a late discovery. I think people will see the clarity and simplicity in my work, and appreciate it for those qualities."

On 9 March 1994, he died of leukaemia. At Misso & Frank, his favourite Hollywood restaurant, the barman cancelled the order for riesling and Liebfraumilch. There would be no more hangovers, but the Bukowski industry has a few vintage years to come.

Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life by Howard Sounes is published tomorrow by Rebel Inc, price £16.99

The oral surgeon in chief

COMEDY

JACKIE MASON
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, LONDON

JACKIE MASON used to be a rabbi, but he had to give it up because he couldn't take it seriously. He still can't take anything seriously, but he's in a rather more suitable job now – he's a comedian. And a remarkable one at that.

As he slouches on stage in an ordinary black double-breasted suit, the stout, 64-year-old Mason, by his own admission, looks like nothing so much as an accountant. But once the monologue begins, his whole body springs into life – never has one man's shrug been so expressive. There is just no stopping him; some ideas simply drown in a gushing tide of words.

At the Playhouse on Monday night, he made a joke of the fact that he had unsuccessfully attempted to exit the stage four times. Imagine a wise guy New York cabbie setting the world to rights – on fast-forward – and you get the picture.

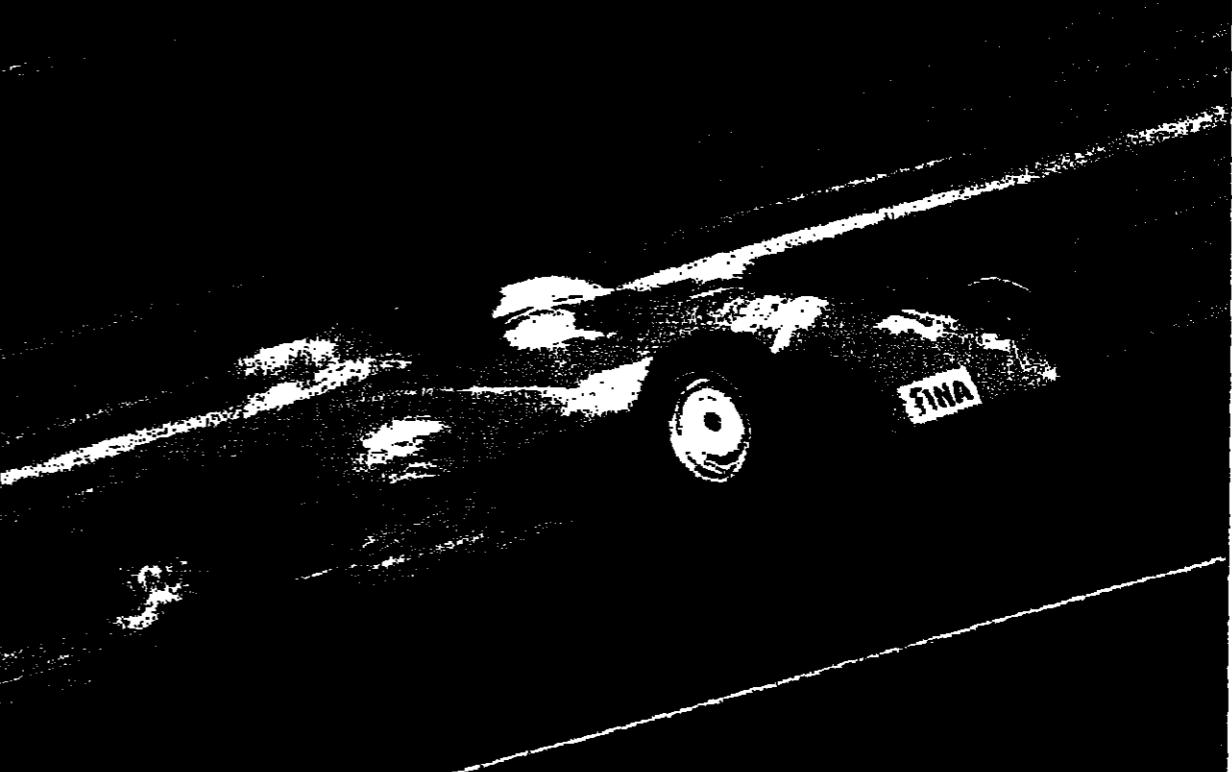


Mason: best on Jews and Gentiles Geraint Lewis

Mason occasionally gives off the air of being the man that PC forgot. Some of his routines – particularly about blacks and gays – would have the right-on brigade peering hand-wringing letters to the *New Statesman*. It is not hard to see why he has been dubbed "the Bernard Manning of Brooklyn". But even his most offensive material is delivered with such a twinkle that you can't be sure it's not just another joke – on people's PC sensibilities.

To November 28. Box office: 0171-839 4409 JAMES RAMPTON

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Percy's great adventure

CLASSICAL

THE GRAINGER EVENT
ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE, LONDON

The Percy Grainger Chamber Orchestra, under Joe Conway, gave some of his better known pieces in performances that showed attention to Grainger's meticulous markings, while recollections of Grainger from friends and relatives added a personal touch – extracts at one point from a radio interview by John Amis created an almost uncanny impression of the composer's own presence at St John's.

A very enjoyable workshop with the BBC Singers and a cheerful workmanlike Bo Holten was interspersed with a vigorous rendition of the

"The Merry Wedding" by the Chapman Studio Soloists and the pianist Antony Gray, plus a commendably clear and disciplined performance of a Bach transcription by the Simon Keyboard Ensemble.

The real musical meat of the occasion came in the two evening concerts, plus a splendid opening recital from the Kneller Hall Band, who gave full range to Grainger's special skill in wind and brass writing. On Saturday Della Jones, Stephen Varcoe, James Gilchrist and Penelope Thwaites gave an enthralling programme of Grainger's songs, ranging from some of his most glorious folk song arrangements, through his remarkable settings of Kipling, written at the age of 16 or so, to the ex-cruciatingly poignant tribute to

the memory of his mother, *The Power of Love*. The effect of the closing "Now, O now I needs must part" (from Dowland) was moving indeed.

By Sunday evening exuberance was the order of the day when Penelope Thwaites was joined by John Lavender, Wayne Marshall and other players at three Steinway grands in a programme that included the immortal bugbear, "Country Gardens" and a première of *The Widow's Party March*, concluding with an 18-handed arrangement from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and the aforementioned theme from *Bridge over the River Kwai*. The audience cheered their approval – no doubt looking forward to another Grainger Museum in Melbourne (the composer's extraordinary tribute to himself), demonstrations of his weird microtonal "butterfly piano", and even "weird whistling and shrieking free music machines".

LAURENCE HUGHES

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AT CIRCUITS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Alan Bennett's play *Kafka's Dick* is a 'philosophical farce'. But isn't that a contradiction in terms? By Paul Taylor

Whoops, professor, there go my trousers

The wittiest definition of a philosophical farce was provided by James Fenton back in the days when he was theatre critic of the *Sunday Times*. Reviewing Michael Frayn's *Balmoral*, he confided that, in this kind of drama, "the trousers of an idea are discovered around its ankles; a Notion is interrupted in bed with a Postulate, or a Proposition sets its foot on a banana skin. To adapt the standard definition: ordinary men are discovered in extraordinary situations because of extraordinary reasoning."

Notions with their knickers in a twist, the *sine qua non* for this form of farce, are in abundant supply in *Kafka's Dick*, the Alan Bennett comedy which opens next week in its first London revival directed by Peter Hall. It's an astutely equivocal play about the English vice of prurient literary biography ("In England, facts like that pass for culture. Gossip is the acceptable face of intellect") and about a writer's ambivalent relationship to same. Kafka is an ideal focus for this discussion, because he shrank from the intrusion of having his fiction – let alone his life – pored over by posterity. The play begins, however, with a scene that casts doubt on the sincerity with which the dying Czech author ordered his friend, Max Brod, to burn his writings.

Bennett creates an ingenious

farce scenario for testing Kafka's qualms by having him and Brod materialise decades later in the suburban Leeds home of Sydney, an insurance man and confirmed Kafka buff who is writing an article about his hero for the trade journal *Small Print*. If Brod had kept his word, of course, Sydney's shelves would not be groaning with the products of the

minded characters. But Kafka, like the author of *Kafka's Dick*, is chronically in two minds about everything. So in one strand of the play, there's a calculated, drily revealing mismatch between the genre and the leading character who is writhingly only half-horrified to discover he is a literary legend. The further joke is that as well as being the figure from whom things must be hidden, he is also the figure who has something embarrassing to hide. To conceal the fact that he has a tiny penis, he will have to rewrite his biographical record and deny that his overbearing father was a big prick.

Philosophical farce works best if

there's an intriguing conceptual relationship between form and content, even when, as in *Kafka's Dick*, it consists in a witty discrepancy. Perhaps the most devilishly clever, neo-Stoppardian marriage between these elements to date was pulled off by Terry Johnson's 1993 play *Hysteria* which is set in the mind of Sigmund Freud shortly before he died from cancer. The aged psychoanalyst has just, we are led to believe, seen to the famous Ben Travers farce *Rookery Nook*. What follows is like *Rookery Nook* after a severe collision with the surrealism of Salvador Dali. Indeed, the ego maniac Spanish painter arrives on the scene to discover a pressure-handbagged Freud holding a bicycle covered in snails, with a hot water bottle attached, and a naked lady in his clos-

et.

"Maestro," he proclaims, sinking to his knees in admiration, "What Dali merely dreams, you live!"

The idea that Freud went to a performance of *Rookery Nook* is a naughty fabrication, reinforced by a po-faced programme note that succeeds in fooling a lot of people. What is not in dispute, though, is the fact that there is a perfect metaphoric relation between farce and Freudian method and hence some justice in sprucing such a play on him. The problem with *Hysteria* is that it includes material too anguishing to be accommodated in this uproarious scheme – specifically the charge that Freud, for defensive and opportunistic reasons, changed his view that child abuse is a fact to the theory that it is a fantasy borne of desire. In its awkward gear changes, *Hysteria* demonstrates how often philosophical farce is forced to suspend farcical operations or face the charge of exuberant heartlessness.

Adroit, self-reflexive of spurring the absurdities of censorship.

Farce is a brutally difficult form

to bring off and all the harder if the frantic physical shenanigans are meant to be the reflection of an intellectual debate – a sort of *No Sex Please, We're Neo-Negligent*. There have, unsurprisingly, been some dismal failures, such as *The Life of the World to Come*, Rod Williams' limp, undignified farce about the ethics of eugenics suspension. And the form has even defeated dramatists whose intelligence and powers of construction would, you'd have thought, earmark them as natural.

Despite a number of rewrites,

Michael Frayn has never cracked the problem of *Balmoral*, a farce which takes off from the reverse-image idea that the Communist Revolution of 1917 took place in England. Frayn has subsequently argued that the play, with its counterfactual world, is inherently flawed.

But if that is so, it is hard to account for *Kafka's Dick* and *Hysteria*. Another reason for its comparative failure might be that the piece – in which a capitalist Russian journalist visits the State Writers' Colony at Balmoral and, through a series of farcical misunderstandings, is converted to ardent communism – never brings into sufficiently animated play the philosophical underpinnings of these opposed ways of life. There's a distinct shortage of conceptual twists.

Of course, the final twist in *Kafka's Dick* is that the play is completely complicit with the gossipy culture it condemns. After all, if Kafka affects to be appalled at publications like *The Loneliness of Kafka* and *Kafka's Agony*, he would surely also have a real job trying to keep his cool at a performance of *Kafka's Dick*.

Piccadilly Theatre, London (booking: 0171-369 1734)



Julia McKenzie, Denis Lill and Eric Sykes in Peter Hall's revival of 'Kafka's Dick'; left, Terry Johnson's 'Hysteria' Robbie Jack



The trouble with Terry Johnson's 'Hysteria' is that the material is just too anguishing

tireless Kafka industry (*Kafka's Loneliness, the Agony of Kafka etc.*). Cue a scene in which Brod and Sydne desperately try to sneak away all these offending volumes behind the back of our genius, who is still supremely ignorant of his posthumous celebrity.

There's a wry twist in this, though. Farce is a form normally populated by frighteningly single

teens on a wet Friday night – as

they did last week – looks nothing short of miraculous. If they can command this kind of attention at the end of the Northern Line, who knows what business they could drum-up in the centre of London.

It's not hard to fathom the appeal. Frantic – who have been operating since 1992 – continue to make an acting area as sexy as a dancefloor. Force 10 techno sounds come crashing in at every available opportunity; in the programme, a scrap of newspaper with a scrawled playlist of scenes ("love stairs", "secrets").

"sizequeen" etc) spells death to stuffy three-actrs. The cast of four – in roles that steal their own christian names – display an agility normally reserved for steroid enhanced Russian gymnasts. In skimpy tops and the usual club rig-out, Cate Davies, Scott Graham, Steven Hoggott and Ansty Thomas leap into each other's arms, dash each other to the ground and find countless ways of dragging themselves off two moveable steel structures: a set of easily tipped up steps and what looks like a cross-section WC. When they open their mouths to speak they sound so

unfaized they might have been just boiling the kettle.

But it's what they say that counts. The super fit expressionism (choreographed by T C Howard) runs parallel to the bruising attitudes that surface after the opening scene, in which a euphoric Stephen celebrates his birthday with girlfriend Kate and two best mates. In the cold, clear light of reflection, it dawns on him that everyone knew what was coming. Scott was a furtive rival while Ansty's gift, a self-help book, quietly declared her unthinking support for Kate's

cynical refusal to commit. Wynne sketches the emotional trench warfare that ensues with devastating economy. The wounding remarks can be transparently juvenile ("I really think the scabies brought us together, at least we had something in common when we had them"), but that's what gives *Sell Out* its integrity. Imagine a hormonally raging prequel to *Closer*, or Pinter's *Betrayal* with added beats per minute.

The physical skills deployed in the Scarlet Theatre company's *Sell Out* are more subtly expressive than Frantic's bicep-

breaking contortions. But then, they have to be. Katarzyna Deszcz has chosen a simple, if vivid, storyline, based on the Italian judge and playwright Ugo Bettini's Crime on Goat Island, about a thick-skinned stranger who invites himself into a remote house occupied by three women claiming to have befriended Agatha, the head of the household's husband before he died in a prison-of-war camp. It's the awkward silences, the mutual sizing up, rather than the terse dialogue that grips, though, as allegiances shift bringing ill-tempered rifts. As the

matriarch's sister-in-law and daughter, Jane Guernier and Sarah-Theresa Belcher provide strong support, rich in scatty detail, but it is Linda Kerr-Scott's abandoned widow Agatha who supplies the piece's tragicomic cores: her rapid neck movements suggest a startled farmyard goose, her pursed lips and severe eyes an eternity of strife between the sexes.

'Stranded', Young Vic, London SE1, to 21 Nov. 'Sell Out', 13 Nov UEA, Norwich, 17 Nov. Theatre Studio, Scarborough and touring until March 1999

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

IT TAKES a certain intrepidity to call a show *Sell Out*. As a description of the youthful Frantic Assembly's latest offering, the title is a trifle misleading: Michael Wynne's play exposes the slip-knot bond of four twentysomething friends who, if emerges, are too faithless to have ever really bought into anything. As a forecast of the work's reception on tour, though, it has proved uncannily accurate. To have had to add an extra date to their recent British Festival of Visual Theatre run looks like good fortune. To have packed out the Bull Theatre in Barnet with

teens on a wet Friday night – as they did last week – looks nothing short of miraculous. If they can command this kind of attention at the end of the Northern Line, who knows what business they could drum-up in the centre of London.

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next door got an emergency

call to come back and fly off.

It was fairly terrifying but a

wonderful opportunity – it was

like being in the West End

straight away. I was only 17.

The dancing training I'd received undoubtedly helped me

take to the air – you have to

arch your back otherwise you

look like a sack of potatoes. We

played London over Christmas

and then toured for 13 weeks.

After that, I wrote to all the

repertory theatres. The only

Claim a lump sum and get an annuity, too. By Abigail Montrose



There is no need to ease up on your lifestyle when you retire if you play the pension game to your advantage

Let the tax man pay your pension

Personal pensions are one of the most tax-efficient savings schemes around. They are aimed at anyone who is not in a company pension scheme, and offer generous tax breaks.

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The effect of this for basic-rate taxpayers is that, for every £77 you pay in, £100 is invested in the fund.

Those paying 40 per cent income tax fare even better: They have to pay only £80 into their pension scheme for a £100 investment to be made.

Because of this generous tax treatment, there are limits on the amount you can invest.

If you have not made the maximum tax-free contributions to which you are entitled, it may not be too late to make these up, explains Craig Foreman, of the independent financial advisers MPL.

He says: "The carry-back

rules allow people to use up any relief from the previous year that they haven't already used.

The carry-forward rules then allow you to catch up on any missed premiums in the previous six years."

The rules are quite complex, so it is worth getting professional help. The ideal way to build up your pension is to start early and make adequate regular contributions.

If you got off to a slow start, then you should look to make up for this as soon as possible by increasing your contributions and, where possible, using up regular contributions.

Say you have £50,000 of unused relief. As a higher-rate taxpayer you could pump this much into your pension with a net contribution of £30,000 (the other £20,000 comes from re-claimed tax).

This can be particularly advantageous for the over-50s who may now have more money to invest in their pensions as a result of their children having grown up and the mortgage having been paid off.

Under the personal pension rules, you can start to draw benefits from your pension once you hit age 50. You can take up to 25 per cent of your pension money as tax-free cash, and the rest must be used to buy an

annuity whose purpose is to provide you with an income for the rest of your life.

If you reach your 50s and have not put as much into your pension as you would like, then by using the carry-back and carry-forward rules you can invest large sums for a relatively small outlay, and so rapidly boost the size of your pension pot.

Say you have £50,000 of unused relief. As a higher-rate taxpayer you could pump this much into your pension with a net contribution of £30,000 (the other £20,000 comes from re-claimed tax).

Once this contribution is made, you then withdraw 25 per cent of the £10,000 as tax-free cash, leaving £7,500 (£10,000 less the £2,500 cash) to buy an annuity. So for a net investment of £3,500 (your £2,000 less the £2,500 cash you took back) but you would have boosted your pension pot by £7,500 (the £50,000 invested in your pension, less the £2,500 cash you took).

"If people can afford it, this is one way for late arrivals at the pension party to give themselves a reasonable-sized pen-

Retirement is a risky business

NOW IS not a good time to be retiring. Of course there may not always be a choice, but in financial terms, retirement could hardly come at a worse moment. Not only is the stock market very uncertain, therefore affecting the value of the pension fund that buys the annuity or income for life, but annuity rates have dropped dramatically in the past few weeks. All this represents a double hit for those who have saved all their lives in order to enjoy their leisure time.

There is not much that can be done about the state of the stock market. A smaller fund means that the income for the rest of someone's life will be reduced. Also, deciding on an annuity means that the rate of income is once again fixed for the rest of an investor's life. Is there a solution?

Delia was in exactly this position. She had decided that she wished to retire about a year ago. Her pension fund was £120,000 and available to purchase retirement benefits. She also had a capital sum that would provide an increased income for her. Delia plans to enjoy her retirement. She

THE FIXERS



AMANDA DAVIDSON

would like to travel, visit friends, spend more time with her family and she wishes to make some home improvements. Having earned a good income, she is having to readjust her sights and realises that she is not going to be as financially well off as before retirement. However, with both financial and personal planning, the negative effects of a reduced income can be controlled.

We looked at the draw-down option in place of taking an annuity. A draw-down arrangement is where the money stays invested, but the client can take an income. The advantage is that if investments perform well, the income can

increase. Also, it means that an individual can delay fixing on an annuity until times are better, although no later than 75. The disadvantage is that if investment performance falters, this means a cut in income and there is no guarantee that annuity rates will increase.

However, it is certainly worth considering and working through the figures to see whether the increased risk is advisable. In the end, Delia decided that opting for draw-down was too risky. This was correct as she has other monies which are invested and therefore already subject to the ups and downs of the stock market. No doubt her view on this was coloured by the recent downturn in the market.

So looking at a spread of investments we were then back to an annuity. The best arrangement that we could find at the time was a level annuity of £2,500 from Norwich Union. We decided on a level annuity as it takes some time for increasing annuities to catch up and there is the benefit of having the money earlier. In addition, the extra lump sum investments that Delia

has would enable her to take an increasing income in the future.

However, there is a third option which worked well for Delia. That is to consider a with-profits annuity. Looking at the with profits annuity figures, we discovered that Delia can take an income of some £9,500 for the rest of her life. In order to maintain this income, the pension fund must achieve a growth rate of only 6 per cent a year, net of charges.

Thus, as far as risk is concerned, Delia is treading a middle road between the guarantee of an annuity, and the more extreme positives and negatives of a draw-down by opting for the with-profits annuity.

Once again this shows the benefits of looking at all the options. It is essential to look at a person's complete financial circumstances, particularly at such a crucial time as retirement. Even in these troubled times, there are workable options for those facing retirement.

Amanda Davidson is a partner at Holden Meekan, independent financial advisors (0171 692 1700).

There's still hope if you've made a bad investment. By John Andrew

When fools rush in

DESPITE THE fact that the Financial Services Act was passed in 1998, hundreds of people each year are sold inappropriate investments or given advice that is not suitable to their situation. If this happens to you, where should you go for advice?

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) Ombudsman Bureau resolves disputes between customers and the providers of investment products regulated by the PIA – independent financial advisers, building societies and banks.

Its principal ombudsman is Anthony Holland, a solicitor. The bureau's budget is made up of a contribution from the PIA's regulatory fees and by a flat fee of £500 per case, to be paid by

the firm about whom a complaint is made.

Before the PIA will look at a complaint, the matter must first have been referred to the firm concerned. The firm will acknowledge the complaint within seven working days and should complete its investigation within two months.

The firm will then send a letter rejecting or accepting the complaint. If the latter, it will state the settlement being offered.

Should the outcome not be satisfactory, it is then that the complainant should contact the bureau. However, it cannot investigate:

- The terms of mortgages and other loans, unless connected with an investment;
- Bank and building society deposits;
- A mere fluctuation in the value of an investment.

Although the complainant has no right of appeal, legal re-

dress can be sought through the courts. An aggrieved firm can apply to the court for a judicial review if it is able to show that the ombudsman's decision was unfair or was against the evidence, or was wrong in law. Such reviews, however, are rare.

The amount for which the ombudsman can make a binding award is limited to £100,000 or £20,000 per annum for permanent health insurance. However, this does not mean that the recommended award cannot be higher. The highest award ever made was £400,000.

The PIA Ombudsman Bureau may be contacted at: Hertsmere House, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4LB (0171 216 0016).

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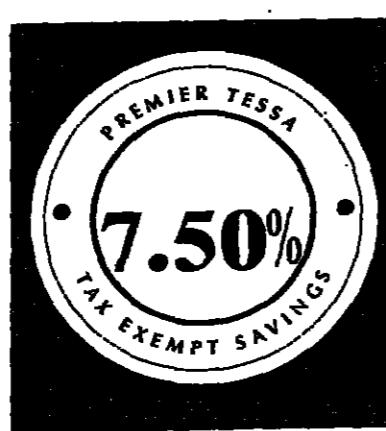
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS Equitable friendly society is launching a free guide to all aspects of higher education. The guide outlines the current position on grants and tuition fees, and discusses some of the possible ways of funding a student through higher education.

The guide comes at the same time as Tunbridge Wells launches a university bond, designed to pay out a lump sum at the beginning of each year of higher education, whilst still making use of a child's friendly society tax-exempt allowance.

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Time Whitehall got its hands dirty

How would you feel if personal details held by the NHS and the DVLA were put up for sale? With Labour's commitment to linking public and private sectors, that day may be nearer than you think. By Paul Gosling

ANYONE WHO believed that the commercialisation of the public sector would end when Labour replaced the Conservatives in government was very much mistaken. Amid all the hype over the Public Finance Initiative and Best Value, a third and perhaps equally important concept has been overlooked - joint ventures between the public and private sectors.

Moves to promote partnership enterprises between business and public bodies have been moving ahead at speed. Last month, a conference was organised jointly by the Treasury and Ernst & Young which examined how to spot joint venture opportunities, and next week there is a follow-up event from PriceWaterhouseCoopers and the Treasury on how these partnership arrangements can work.

Opening the first event, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, said that the public sector's physical and intellectual assets should be put to more productive use, generate income for public bodies and their commercial enterprises. He said that it was an important element in achieving the higher productivity targets set for the public sector by the Chancellor.

"This initiative is also about changing the culture in Whitehall," added Mr Robinson. "It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently rather than just telling them to do so. It's about the Treasury giving guidance and support: a partnership in government, as well as between government and the private sector."

Mr Robinson raised the possibility of surprising opportunities. The idea of making more use of publicly owned buildings is hardly new, but the Government is also talking of earning income from the release of some of its databases and internal know-how. The Treasury points out that this will not involve the release of confidential private information, which is protected by the Data Protection Act. But it does want to see more public bodies look for commercial opportunities, in the

way that the Meteorological Office is selling forecasts to businesses. It is even possible that the NHS may be encouraged to sell to drug companies generic or anonymised clinical information on patients' illnesses and recovery rates. To raise revenue for the service. But highly political decisions like this have not yet been taken.

Ralph Ainsworth, a managing consultant with Ernst & Young's public and network services division, was involved in organising the conference. He says that public bodies, particularly the arm's-length executive agencies, were given direction on how to make their operations more commercial, backed by stronger incentives to do so.

"We stressed that it was important that the public sector saw assets not just as costs, but as value providers," says Mr Ainsworth. "These assets may include brands and intellectual assets, though this needs clarification."

Mr Ainsworth says that there are databases held by agencies that have a strong commercial value.

The Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a customer list that could be used, and maybe anonymised so that there is no risk of intrusion of privacy," suggests Mr Ainsworth.

"In other areas there are different types of classification of information, where there is a judgement to be made on how far you go."

This conference was mainly aimed at the executive agencies, which now employ the majority of civil servants to deliver services on behalf of government.

"The policy will find ground to grow at the agencies," says Mr Ainsworth. "They are closer to markets and to commercial activity."

But the approach is also being promoted to local government. A few days earlier, Hilary Armstrong, Minister for Local Government and Housing, announced the go-ahead for a range of additional Best Value pilot schemes, where councils have been given exemption from compulsory competitive tendering

arrangements in order to develop partnerships. Ms Armstrong said that partnerships with the private sector were an essential element in the Best Value regime. The Best Value partnership pilots include a joint venture between several councils in the South-west to outsource their payroll administration to achieve economies of scale. In another project, three Yorkshire councils are to combine their internal audit services, and will bid for contracts with new clients. A Public Sector/Pic Partnership Network has been established to promote joint ventures between local councils and businesses, to attract new capital and a more commercial outlook in a range of trading activities - several leading companies have already signed up to the project. And a franchise scheme has been approved, to be run by ICL and Barony, to run revenue collection and benefits and other administration IT projects, in which councils will be able to work together to achieve economies of scale.

Further partnership schemes between councils and the private sector may be approved, even before Best Value legislation is enacted. The Department of the Environment says that additional exemptions will be given to local authorities to opt out of CCT legislation if it helps them prepare for the Best Value regime, and assists the Government to evaluate innovative ways of working with commercial partners.

Recognising this trend towards partnering, a new guide has just been published by the Public Private Partnerships Programme (the P4s). This examines the experience of the London Borough of Lambeth, which externalised its blue-collar direct services organisation to the private contractors Service Team. Lambeth believed that this would be the only route to attracting new capital investment into the DSO, improve the operation's efficiency and ensure that a major contractor was based in the borough, providing job opportunities for residents.

Peter Fanning, chief executive of



Geoffrey Robinson: 'It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently'

Alistair MacDonald

4Ps, says that the lessons from Lambeth's experience - where they were advised by the specialist lawyers Eversheds - was that local councils do not need to wait for Best Value legislation to adopt a partnering approach, nor do they need to worry unduly about European Union procurement laws.

"A lot of things can be done with existing rules - it doesn't need a change in primary legislation to

have flexibility," says Mr Fanning. "What our guide demonstrates is that within the existing framework it is possible to procure a partner, rather than a supplier. That means that instead of working up detailed specifications under the Private Finance Initiative or whatever, you can procure a partner with a view to jointly working up the specification at an earlier stage in the procurement process.

"The private sector supplier is then involved in the innovative process, rather than just responding to a tendering advertisement where someone else is doing the innovation. This guidance should allow local authorities and private sector partners to work together co-operatively, and I hope innovatively, while working within the EU procurement rules. What the private sector doesn't want to do is to work up a scheme, and

then see the local authority put the whole contract out to tender."

And what the Government does want is for the public sector to get its hands dirtier by getting stuck into commercial opportunities. To do this, as Geoffrey Robinson concedes, involves a massive change in public sector culture.

How well it is able to challenge that ingrained culture will be well worth watching.

Longest working week and highest divorce rate: any link?

"WELL, DON'T you think it's a bit worrying that I've spent two evenings this week with Olivier and four with Jaap?" I ask Jane during one of our rare weekend outings. "After all, Olivier's the one I'm going out with. Jaap's just my deputy boss."

Jane puts down her fork for a second and wrinkles her nose the way she does when she's giving something the benefit of all her immense brainpower.

"Mmm," she finally proffers, "but then you've spent four evenings with Rory, as well, and you're hardly in danger of falling for him. You're just bonding with your new colleagues, that's all."

Stop fretting about it. Pudding? I'm having one."

Anyway, what with Jane's common sense and the warm chocolate torte with saffron cream, I start to feel a great deal better. After all, I can't be the only person in the City who socialises less with their boyfriend or girlfriend than with the people they work with.

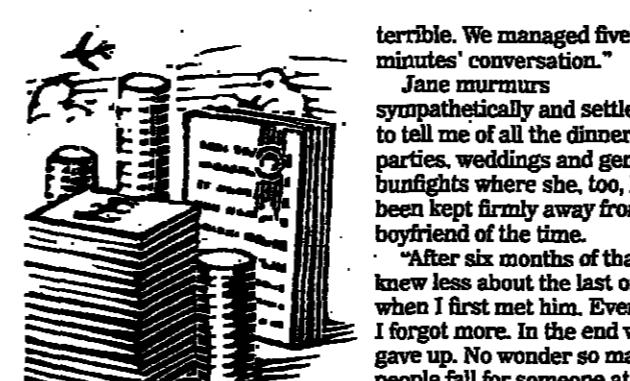
Hardly surprising, given the hours we all put in at the office.

You'd think some policy-maker somewhere might have noticed that not only do the British have the longest working week in Europe, we also have the highest divorce rate, and maybe put two

and two together - but I wouldn't hold your breath on this one.

Then there's the added problem that when you do finally get to meet up, it's often at some dinner party where everyone says: "Oh, we can't have couples sitting next to each other," as if we're all still leisurely landed gentry, and you end up talking to some rugby-playing stockbrokers while your jet-setting Frenchman sits at the other end of the room trying to look interested in the in-jokes of a couple of Sloaney school-leavers.

"A recent event?" asks Jane sympathetically, and I nod. "Friday," I say. "It was



THE TRADER

terrible. We managed five minutes' conversation."

Jane murmurs sympathetically and settles down to tell me of all the dinner parties, weddings and general buffalos where she, too, has been kept firmly away from the boyfriend of the time.

"After six months of that, I knew less about the last one than when I first met him. Every week I forgot more. In the end we just gave up. No wonder so many people fall for someone at work."

Only, naturally, I will not be following suit, as I tell Jane. After all, I point out, I didn't fall for anyone in the last place, and

just because the only available male was the odious and deeply unattractive Neil doesn't make my willpower any the less admirable. Jane raises her right eyebrow at this, which means that (a) she doesn't believe me, and (b) that she's been watching far too many Roger Moore films.

"The name's Bond, Jane Bond," I tease, and for a few minutes I manage to stop her talking about people who fall for other people in the office.

But she's a game girl, not easily deflected from the main thread of the conversation, and soon we're back almost where we began, with me pointing out

how disastrous it can be to get too heavily involved with someone at work.

"Look at the high drama at the last place, with Rory and Sam," I say. "It was bad enough as a spectator. Imagine being a participant. No, I think it's the worst idea in the world to go out with a colleague, and I'm never going to do it."

"Well, anyway," Jane says sweetly, "there's no danger of that in this case. You've already told me you don't find Jaap the least bit attractive."

"No," I reply decisively. "I don't fancy him at all." And even I believed it.

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Celebrities and cellulite



Sharon Scott: "It's funny seeing Barbara Windsor in relaxed mode sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking very glamorous" Keith Dobney

I didn't know much about health farms until I went to Champneys with my mother several years ago. We had a super time away from everyday interruptions, so when I saw this position advertised it sounded perfect. But having been out of the workplace for a while, I was really surprised to be offered the job.

I have two roles. One is what I call "looking after Stephen", which includes anything a normal PA would do, including dry-cleaning, diary and travel arrangements. The other involves quite a lot of marketing, and arranging celebrity visits.

Stephen lives between his three health farms. Henlow Grange in Bedfordshire, Forest Mere in Hampshire and Springs in Leicestershire. I've suggested that he get a helicopter to make the travelling easier. It's been particularly stressful in the last 12 months because we have had the BBC filming a fly-on-the-wall series about the refurbishment of Forest Mere, which has added to the workload.

I WORK FOR SHARON SCOTT WORKS FOR STEPHEN PURDEW, SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR OF THE HENLOW GRANGE HEALTH FARMS GROUP

Whereas I have a work life and a home life, Stephen's boundaries are blurred. Even when he is socialising he is also working, and his address book reads like a Who's Who of celebrities. The higher the profile of the people who visit the farms, the better it is for business, because it helps attract customers on the "if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me" basis. Working with celebrities wasn't something I expected to be doing, but it certainly makes my job more exciting. Of course, there are the few stars who want adoration, and some of the younger ones can get a little too big for their boots, but most want to put on a fluffy dressing-gown like everyone else and just merge into the background.

Frank Bruno, Jimmy Savile and Barbara Windsor are among the reg-

ulars. It's funny seeing Barbara in relaxed mode, sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking very glamorous. You can tell how long people have been staying here by their appearance. If their shoulders are still hunched up then they've just arrived, but if they are gliding along the corridor looking peaceful and relaxed, then they have been here a couple of days.

Since Stephen lives on site he eats very healthily and he also uses the facilities. He believes absolutely in what he does, and so do I. I think it's important that I look fit, too, which I do because I teach ballet to children at the weekend.

We had the Big Breakfast here the other day, which meant that I had to be in at 5am to be ready for them. It

was a complicated job because the producer wanted the presenters to knock on the bedrooms of three VIP guests with three different types of breakfast. I was terribly worried that none of our guests would be willing to open their doors to a television crew at such an early hour. I needn't have worried, because they fell over themselves to be chosen.

On another occasion we had two film crews at Henlow at the same time. One crew were filming a hunting and shooting programme, the other crew were with a daytime beauty show. Everyone was getting confused about which crew was which and I feared a disaster. Luckily we got through it OK.

I think that the reason why Stephen and I have such a good rapport is because I manage to stay calm.

Stephen once said to me, "I don't suppose you ever get angry." Of course I do, but I just don't let it show at work. He warned me that there would be times when he would shout at me when he was stretched, but he never has. Although Stephen is terribly busy we still manage to have a very easy-going relationship. We often pull each other's legs, and there's a lot of banter between us.

When I get stressed I nip down to the treatment rooms and get a quick massage, but luckily this job is mainly nine to tire so I can be home for my children after school. Because he's a father himself Stephen is very accommodating when I need time to be with my children. He even gives them signed CDs from pop stars, which ups their street credibility at school no end. This job has been everything I hoped it would be and more. I received a letter the other day complimenting me on my work, which was very rewarding.

KATIE SAMPSON

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mistake," I stutter. "Mistake?" enquires Martin. "How so?" "The 21 ads I've sold, I haven't been paid for them." "Paid?" says Martin, and sits so far back in his chair I think it's going to tip over. "How so, paid?" This can't be happening.

"Commission," I say. "The 10 per cent commission."

Martin laughs gaily.

"Commission? You want us to pay you commission? But

Laura, I'm doing you a favour here. The way I see it, you ought to be paying us."

"WHAT?" "Well," he tips forward, fetches a cigar from the box on his desk,

clips the end off with a silver clipper, lights it.

"Well," he says as he sucks,

"the way I see it is that -"

He sits back, blows a smoke ring at the ceiling. "You've had a damn good training

here. You are beginning to have a skill you didn't have a month ago, and we've let

you have access to our phones, our desk space, our lists, and Ivana's expertise

for absolutely nothing. I agreed to give you training. I must say, I think you're being very ungrateful."

You've got to be kidding." "Kidding?" Far from it. You told me you didn't have a job, didn't you?" "Yes." "And I told you we didn't have anything here, didn't I?" "Yes."

"Well," I thought... I fight

for words. Then,

pathetically, "I thought we were friends." "Friends?" says Martin. "Friends?"

You're somebody I bumped

into at a cocktail party and did a favour for. I don't believe this. This is the last time I - get out." He rises

from behind the desk, bears

down on me, and I find

myself backing toward the door; the scene I witnessed

when I first came here rising in my memory.

"You can't do this!" I shout as he propels me from his office. "You can't! I earned that money fair and square!" I'll bloody well sue you if I have to." "Sue away, Laura," he says. "And if you can show your lawyer a copy of our contract, you may have a leg to stand on."

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comes
umps
again

LIVE TEMP

NEW FILMS

ANTZ (PG)

Director: Eric Daniels, Tim Johnson
Starring: Woody Allen, Sharon Stone (voices)

See The Independent Recommendations, right

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE PLAYERS CLUB (18)

Director: Ice Cube

Starring: Lisa Raye

This virginal writing-directing gig from LA rapper Ice Cube is a right muddle. On the face of it, *The Players Club* efforts to lift the lid on America's seedy black strip joints, and stakes its head disapprovingly at the sight. Trouble is, Mr Cube can't drag his camera away from all that sweet, honeyed flesh for long enough to make his point. So, as our embattled Girl Power heroine (Lisa Raye) fights against the system, the film's gaze keeps wandering towards the floor show. Stripping's a bad thing to happen to a nice lady. Cube seems to be saying. But whoah - just look at that nice lady strip.

West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

GIRLS TOWN (15)

Director: Jim McKay

Starring: Lili Taylor, Brinkin Harris, Anna Grace
Semi-improvised acting lends an effectively baggy rhythm to this coarse-grained tale of three high-school pals (Lili Taylor, Brinkin Harris, Anna Grace) thrown into crisis by a friend's suicide. Girls Town laces its predictable rites-of-passage drama with a harsh, blue-collar twist. Cuor grafited streets, a hip-hop soundtrack and plenty of slangy, Noo Joicey backchat. Although McKay's flick descends into preachiness at times, the tough, committed playing soon hoists it up again.

West End: ABC Piccadilly

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Director: Ken Loach

Starring: Peter Mullan, Louise Goodall
Back home after a pair of uncharismatic foreign diversions (*Land and Freedom*, *Carla's Song*), Ken Loach has rustled up the solid social-realist tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between old life (drugs, crime) and new (a romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor). Turn a blind eye to Paul Laverty's faintly stock, schematic screenplay, and *My Name Is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of a Britain caught below the poverty line. Mullan's muscular, charismatic performance binds the whole thing smartly together.

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AIR BUD (U)

A ludicrous yet entertaining tale about a young boy who moves to a new town after the death of his father and befriends a basketball-playing dog. What will snare audiences is the catalogue of tricks, beautifully performed by the canine Buddy. Yet, equally importantly, the film is nicely paced and enjoyable for both adults and children.

West End: UCI Whiteleys

EAST SIDE STORY (U)

This oddball documentary spotlights the propagandist entertainment that flourished behind the Iron Curtain. *Volga, Volga* was Stalin's favourite movie, while Frank Shobell's hormonal antics in 1968's *Hot Summer* had him labelled "the Elvis of the East". Hollywood frivolities retailed in strict Soviet fashions. *West End:* ABC Swiss Centre, Screen on the Hill

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is not bad at all - the sort of gold-plated trash that Hollywood does better than anyone else.

West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. *West End:* ABC Baker Street, Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

PRIMARY COLORS (15)

As Jack Stanton, John Travolta's performance amounts to a bravura, vaudeville impersonation of Clinton, and you can't take your eyes off him.

The film does brilliant things with narrative, symbolism and farce, but doesn't leave its audience to draw their own conclusions. *West End:* Barbican Screen, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

EVER AFTER (PG)

Drew Barrymore stars as a 16th-century daddy's girl who is tormented by her beastly stepmother (Anjelica Huston) after her father's death but finds hope in the arms of a handsome prince. This might more accurately have been entitled *Cinderella 90210*. *West End:* Odeon Kensington, Warner Village West End

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

What was most shocking back in 1973 looks oddly ho-hum today. Where Bill Friedkin's chiller still chills is in its haunting secondary elements, in the snarling, distorting soundtrack and ultra-elegant pacing - those still moments between the storms. *West End:* ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

FUNNY GAMES (18)

This attack on screen violence views like a harsh lab experiment: nib one family unit with two psychopaths (Arno Frisch, Frank Giering), then sit back and watch the fireworks. It discreetly cuts away during its more shocking moments, yet is big on gruesome sound effects. The cast-iron claustrophobia leaves you fighting for breath. *West End:* Metro, Curzon Minima, Ritzy Cinema

HALLOWEEN: H2O (18)

Twenty years after the events of the original *Halloween*, our resident psychopath returns to terrorise the one that got away - his sister (Jamie Lee Curtis). Standard shocks with a glazing of post-modern in-jokes. *West End:* Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

I WANT YOU (18)

A torrid tale of a hairdresser (Rebel Weisz) preyed on by her ex-cod ex-boyfriend (Alessandro Nivola). Cue deep pockets of secrecy and sudden surges of murky sex en route to a grim finale. *West End:* ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Eliaçet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. *West End:* Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad to seek out a young private behind enemy lines. Few viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by catharsis - it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory. *West End:* Plaza

SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)

Inventive children's adventure about a batch of toy soldiers brought to life by a military microchip. The director, Joe Dante, draws some nice parallels with his own best film *Ghosts*. *West End:* Hammersmith Virgin, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

STILL CRAZY (15)

Clement and Le Fresnoy-scripted comedy about a bunch of 1970s rockers reforming for a comeback tour. Hailing from *The Full Monty* school of feel-good fodder, Still Crazy boasts charm in abundance and a clatter of raucous gigs. *West End:* Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)

Peter Weir's comedy about a man (played by Jim Carrey) who discovers that his whole existence has been televised since birth and broadcast to the world. The film is very funny, due more to Andrew Niccol's script than its star's presence. *West End:* Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)

Brian Slade (Jonathan Rhys Myers) is a Bowie-esque icon; his friend Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a US rocker in the Lou Reed-Iggy Pop mould. The story of these characters is unravelled by a journalist (Christian Bale) who, 10 years after the death of Slade, is dispatched to discover the truth behind the glam. Director Todd Haynes has fashioned a masterpiece in which form and content function as inseparable harmony. This film brims with a sense of the infinite possibilities of cinema. *West End:* Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

WANTED (18)

A torrid tale of a hairdresser (Rebel Weisz) preyed on by her ex-cod ex-boyfriend (Alessandro Nivola). Cue deep pockets of secrecy and sudden surges of murky sex en route to a grim finale. *West End:* ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Eliaçet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. *West End:* Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

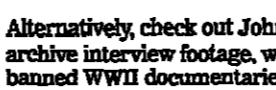
THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Xan Brooks

THE COMPUTER animation peddled by the likes of *Toy Story* and DreamWorks' fine *Antz* (left) still strikes Luddites like myself as a faintly soulless and fledgling innovation. Where *Antz* really hits home is in its more old-fashioned ingredients: in its Metropolis-style depiction of a totalitarian community; and in Woody Allen's wonderfully deft, funny reading of its worker-ant hero: "the middle child in a family of five million".

On general release



Alternatively, check out John Huston's *War Stories*, a stark weave of archive interview footage, with extracts from two of the director's banned WWII documentaries (*The Battle of San Pietro*, *Let There Be Light*). Huston's war-is-hell message had the US authorities panicking.

NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 8.45pm

Comedy James Rampton

WHEN JACK DEE was wearing short trousers rather than snappy suits, Norman Lovett was out on the comedy circuit perfecting the art of the deadpan. Dee even calls him "one of my favourite comedians". Now in his fifties, Lovett is slightly taken aback that the style he pioneered has become trendy. "It has taken off," he affirms. "Jack's got that sneery attitude - Paul Merton, too. Perhaps a lot of people are really like that, and what we say on stage is what they'd like to say." He is in a deadpan double act with Hattie Hayridge, the other stand-up who played Holly the Computer, in *A Red Dwarfs Night* at the Newcastle Comedy Festival.

Live Theatre, Quayside, Newcastle
(0191-232 1222) 8.30pm

The imitable Arthur Smith (right), the finest MC known to man, compères a benefit in aid of the Neo-Natal Unit at St George's Hospital, Tooting. Featured on the bill is the promising newcomer Dan Antonopoli.

The Bedford, London SW12
(01444 413442) 8pm



POP Tim Perry

FOR TOO long the Levellers (right) and their fans have been stereotyped as hopeless dog-on-a-piece-of-string types, but the reality is quite different. Always appreciative of their (surprisingly diverse) audience, they never fail to put on a good night of entertainment, with their folk-punk rock proving a perfect catalyst for a boozey evening. This tour promotes their *Best of...* album.

Ulster Hall, Belfast (01232 329685) 7.30pm

One of the best double bills during the ORIS London Jazz Festival features two excellent worldbeat outfit. Madagascar's Tarika promise to be both a musical and visual treat, delivering traditional music with the energy of garage rock. Cosmopolitan Lo'Jo, based in Angers, France, were a major hit at this year's WOMAD festival. Their intense mix of Arabic melodies, Romany fiddling, African rhythms and other sounds from around the world can be heard on the recent, recommended *Majra Radio* album.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) 7.45pm



Theatre Dominic Cavendish

ONCE AGAIN, the Almeida has utilised the greater space of its West End second home to create a backdrop as elegant as Racine's verse. But there is much more to admire in Jonathan Kent's modern-dress *Britannicus* - which has joined the acclaimed *Phaedra* title in repertory - than Maria Björnson's exquisitely realised corridor of power. Diana Rigg (below) is awesome as the calculating matriarch, Agrippina, struggling to claw back authority from Toby Stephens' creepily conflicted Nero.

Albery Theatre, London WC2 (0171-369 1740) 7.30pm

Parc Bancil's *Made in England* is a fascinating précis of the tensions inherent in the notion of Anglo-Asian culture. A bitter punk musician watches in disgust as his young protégé betrays the older generation's struggle for uncompromised recognition by becoming a lightweight Asian pop star. Bancil keeps you hooked to the polemic, even if it is increasingly melodramatic.

Etcetera Theatre, London NW1
(0171-482 4857) 9.30pm



EDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) \diamond Tottenham Hale Antz

3.40pm, 7.20pm *Mulan* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 7.30pm *Perfect Murder* 2.30pm, 6.30pm *9mm* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 7.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.30pm, 6.30pm *Halloween*: H20 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 7.30pm *Kuchi Kuchi Hota Hoi* 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 9.10pm *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels* 9.20pm, 9.45pm, 9.55pm

BARNET ODEON (08705 005007) \diamond Bayswater Air

8.30pm *Antz* 3.40pm, 7.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.30pm, 6.30pm *Mulan* 9.20pm, 9.45pm, 9.55pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-005007) \diamond Camden Town

12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 8.30pm *Antz* 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm *Mulan* 9.30pm, 9.45pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-005007) \diamond Camden Town

12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 8.30pm *Antz* 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm *Mulan* 9.30pm, 9.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-353 3366) \diamond Belsize Park

3pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm *The Governess* 3pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm

HOLLOWAY

ODEON [08705 050007] Archway Antz 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Exorcist 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Halloween: H20 7.10pm, 9.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4.10pm, 8.50pm Mulan 12.50pm, 2.55pm, 5pm The Player's Club 2pm, 6.40pm Small Soldiers 1.10pm, 3.25pm Snake Eyes 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm There's Something About Mary 6.05pm, 8.45pm The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm

MUSWELL HILL

ODEON [08705 050007] Highgate Antz 1.05pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm The Big Lebowski 1.40pm, 4pm, 6pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm

PECKHAM

Premier [0181-235 3006] BR: Peckham Rye Antz 11.50am, 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 7.50pm, 9.50pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm

PURLEY

ABC [0870-9030407] BR: Purley Antz 6.15pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 5.35pm, 8.15pm Primary Colors 4.55pm, 7.55pm

FUNTRAY

ABC [0870 9020401] Putney Bridge Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8pm Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Truman Show 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 6.05pm, 8.45pm

RICHMOND

ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Richmond Antz 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 11.15pm, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm

LONDON

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW1 [0171-838 2144/2146] Mr Klein [NC] 7.30pm

LFF: ICA CINEMA The Mall [0171-928 3232] Xiao Wu [NC] 2.15pm, 6.45pm Sweet Degeneration [NC] 4.30pm, 9pm

LFF: THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 [0171-928 3232] Of Freaks and Men [NC] 9pm

LFF: MUSEUM CINEMA National Film Theatre SE1 [0171-928 3232] Train to Pakistan [NC] 6.30pm John Huston Stories [NC] 9pm

LFF: NFTH 1 South Bank, Belvedere Road [0171-928 3232] South Dock [NC] 1.30pm Warners Archive Screening Event [NC] 4pm Strangers on a Train [PG] 6pm The Way We Laughed [NC] 9pm

LFF: NATIONAL FILM THEATRE 2 South Bank, Belvedere Road SE1 [0171-928 3232] Train to Pakistan [NC] 6.30pm Playing God [PG] 4pm The Intouchables [NC] 6.30pm Brown's Requiem [NC] 9pm

LFF: ODEON STUDIO [08705 050007] BR: Odeon Richmond Elizabeth 12.40pm, 2.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8pm Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Truman Show 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

RONFORD [0870-9020419] BR: Romford Antz 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm Halloween: H20 8.55pm Small Soldiers 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 [08705 050007] BR: Romford Elizabeth 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9pm Elizabeth 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Ever After 8.50pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm There's Something About Mary 1pm, 6.30pm The Truman Show 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.40pm

SIDCUP [0154-55151] BR: Sidcup Antz 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 5.10pm, 7pm A Perfect Murder 4pm, 9.15pm There's Something About Mary 1pm, 6.30pm The Truman Show 1.40pm, 3.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN [0870-707017] BR: Cricklwood Antz 12.40pm, 2.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm Halloween: H20 8.55pm Small Soldiers 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm Eyes 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm There's Something About Mary 8.20pm The Truman Show 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm

THEATRE CINEMA CENTRE High Street, Brentford [0181-569 1176] Marquis [15] 7pm The Truman Show [PG] 9pm Tuesday Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels [18] 6.15pm

BRISTOL CUBE [0114-907 4191] Velvet Goldmine [18] 9pm

WATERSHED [0117-925 3845] A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries [15] 6.15pm Funny Games [18] 6.05pm, 8.55pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA 01223-504444 Character [15] 2pm, 9.15pm Viridian [18] 4.30pm Velvet Goldmine [18] 6.30pm

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE [0122-399666] The Acid House Trilogy [NC] 10.15pm The Killer [18] 8pm I Want You [18] 7.30pm

CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE [01243-768650] There's Something About Mary [15] 4.15pm

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE 01473-215544 Computer Animation [NC] 6pm Saving Private Ryan [15] 7.30pm Men with Guns [15] 8.15pm

NORWICH CINEMA CITY [01603-622047] La Grande Illusion [U] 5.45pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE [0181-555 1366] BR: Stratford East Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Elizabeth 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm Halloween: H20 7.10pm Mulan 1pm, 3pm, 5pm A Perfect Murder 1.20pm, 6.20pm Snake Eyes 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Eyes 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Still Crazy 9.30pm There's Something About Mary 4.15pm, 10.10pm The Truman Show 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm

ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Stratford Hill Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 10pm Mulan 1pm, 3pm, 5pm A Perfect Murder 1.20pm, 6.20pm Snake Eyes 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Eyes 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Still Crazy 9.30pm There's Something About Mary 4.15pm, 10.10pm The Truman Show 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm

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RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce.
9.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.30 John Peel.
12.00 Giles Peterson. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88.9-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart.
5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barracough. 8.00 Mike Harding.
9.00 All Singing, All Dancing, All Night. 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums. See *Pick of the Day*.
10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. See *Pick of the Day*.
2.00 The BBC Orchestra.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. The first part of the London Symphony Orchestra/Mstislav Rostropovich retrospective, conducted by the composer's friend Mstislav Rostropovich earlier this year, was very well received. Over the next two weeks' performances on 3 features the second part of their series as the last eight symphonies complete the cycle.
London Symphony Orchestra/Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich: Symphony No 9; Symphony No 8.
9.20 Postscript. David Gale talks to five leading thinkers about their own radical vision of the future. 3: Feminist writer Sadie Plant sees the internet as a liberating space for women and believes they will be empowered by technology in the next century.
9.45 Songs by Stenhammar. The Wanderer; A Ship Sails; Miss Blonde and Miss Brunette; Coastal

PICK OF THE DAY

FLEETWOOD MAC (right) is the focus of *Classic Albums* (10pm R2) tonight which looks at *Rumours*. The band members describe the affairs and break-ups behind a record which, apart from selling millions, supplied the theme music for the BBC's Formula 1 coverage and Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. More music can be found in *Costing the Earth* (8pm R4).

which returns with a look at what progress has been made since an EC report five years ago condemned pollution levels in the North Sea. The Lutonshire Concert (1pm R3) features the pianist Alexandre Tharaud and clarinettist Ronald van Spaendonck in an appealing programme of Weber, Berg, Schumann and Poulenc.

ROBERT HANKS

Song (Songs and Moods, Op 26). Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo), Bengt Forsberg (piano).

10.00 Ensemble Mozart's friends had to be rather thick-skinned to withstand his ribald wit and practical jokes, but they were rewarded with some miraculous music. Penny Gore investigates Mozart's friendships with the oboist Friedrich Raimann, the horn player-cum-cheesemonger Ignaz Leutgeb, and the composer's still-playing partner Anton Stadler. Including: Oboe Quartet in F, K370; Gaudenz Ensemble: Trio in E flat, K498 (Kegelstatt); Emma Johnson (clarinet); James Boyd (violin); Ian Brown (piano).
10.45 Night Waves Patrick Wright discusses the work of sculptor Louise Bourgeois, who remains prolific at the age of 87 but whose new work engages subtly with death as well as eroticism. Plus first-night news from English National Opera's new production of 'Boris Godunov'. Francesca Zambello directs Musorgsky's epic tale of the guilt-ridden tyrant and his country.

11.30 Jazz Notes
12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4
(92.9-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS: Midweek.

9.45 Serial: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Live Luggage.
11.30 Funny Bones.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Wordly Wise. (R)
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: Strange Meeting.
3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time.
3.30 Powerful Substances.
3.45 Cautionary Tales.
4.00 NEWS: Case Notes.
4.30 Thinking Allowed.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Raher Hersch's All Classical Music Explained.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson delivers the verdict on 'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas', Terry Gilliam's film of the notorious book by Hunter S Thompson.
7.45 Still Waters By Ann Marie Di Mambro, Kate Taylor runs a magazine that draws its stories from the ancient mysteries of the Scottish Border hills. But Kate also has a personal mystery to solve - why did her husband, Peter, disappear seven years ago? With Ann Scott-Jones and Emma Currie. Director Patrick Rayner. Part 3.
8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Starkey and David Cook cross-examine guests on the moral and ethical issues behind one of the week's controversies.
8.45 Karinic Compensation, Nick Walker, who strode confidently out into the world of international journalism ten years ago, writes home



ROBERT HANKS

about the way his new career in a wheelchair has blocked a hundred paths but opened a thousand sliding doors. Nick wheels and deals his way to a first-class ticket across Europe.

9.00 NEWS: Costing the Earth. Five years ago, nations surrounding the North Sea were shamed by a report describing how they were polluting their own back yard, and Britain came in for particular criticism. But Brussels - the city which is pointing the finger - turns out to be one of the worst offenders. Presenter Guy Linley Adams. See *Pick of the Day*.
10.45 Five Squeaky Pieces. Off-beat comedy sketches and poems written and performed by Claire Calman, Julie Davis, Maria McFarlane, Meera Syal and Arabella Weir. Additional material by Sarah Parkinson.
11.30 Radio Shuttleworth.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast.
5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.
11.30 - 12.04 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(593.9-909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.

7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Featuring commentary, reports and news of all the goals from the remaining ties in the Worthington Cup fourth round. Plus the National Lottery Draw.

10.00 Littlejohn. Football phone-in: 0500 908693.

10.45 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

11.00 All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Classics at Seven. 9.00 Concert. 11.00 Alan Marn. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(155.1-157.6kHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Bobby Bain/Hamlet Scott (FM only from 645). 7.30 Hamlet Scott.

10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Howard Pearce. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus.

2.00 Newsday. 2.20 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.35 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Brain of Britain. 4.00 - 7.00 World Today.

TALK RADIO

7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young.

9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Reeburn.

3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deley. 7.00 Nick Abbott. 9.00 James Whale. 1.00 Ian Collins.

5.00 - 7.00 The Early Show.

SATELLITE AND CABLE**PICK OF THE DAY**

PERHAPS THE most famous of Egyptian queens is back in the news as this week's *The Great Egyptians* (10pm Discovery) reassesses her life. It seems that far from being the irresistible seductress of popular myth, Cleopatra was, in fact, not a very remarkable-looking woman, and was driven solely by desire to protect her children. Shot at Arment, the film reveals a crypt below the temple at Dendera where Cleopatra offered up

sacrifices to the gods. Taking time off from directing his own Shakespearean productions, Kenneth Branagh appears as an actor in someone else's. In Oliver Parker's reading of *Othello* (11.45pm Sky Premier), he makes a suitably devious Iago, wickedly encouraging his commanding officer, Othello (James Earl Ray), to do away with his loyal new wife, Desdemona (Uma Thurman).

JAMES RAMPTON

Exposed (8794633). 11.30 *Real Lives: Ashes to Ashes* (F17940). 12.00 *Final Playing with Fire* (F12352). 1.00 *First Flights* (F129552). 1.30 *Wheel Nuts* (F15853). 2.00 *Closes*.

SKY ONE
1.00 *The Simpsons* (S1640). 2.30 *The Chris Evans Breakfast Show* (S0707). 3.30 *Hollywood Squares* (S0324). 8.00 *Gulty* (S1633). 10.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (T1459). 11.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (S1972). 12.00 *The Chris Evans Breakfast Show* (S1434). 12.55 *The Special K Collection* (S1814). 4.00 *Gulty* (S1640). 5.00 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (F1922). 6.30 *Married with Children* (S125). 6.30 *Friends* (S227). 7.00 *The Simpsons* (S127). 7.30 *Real TV* (A11). 8.00 *Stargate SG-1* (S0577). 9.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (T1459). 11.00 *The Special K Collection* (S1826). 3.45 *The Special K Collection* (S1814). 4.00 *Gulty* (S1640). 5.00 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (F1922). 6.30 *Married with Children* (S125). 6.30 *Friends* (S227). 7.00 *The Simpsons* (S127). 7.30 *Real TV* (A11). 8.00 *Stargate SG-1* (S0577). 9.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (T1459). 11.00 *Friends* (S2283). 11.30 *Deep Space Nine* (F1945). 12.30 *Renegade* (S1909). 1.30 - 2.00 *Long Play* (S14563). 2.30 *The Special K Collection* (S1814). 3.45 *Gulty* (S1640). 4.00 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (F1922). 6.30 *Married with Children* (S125). 6.30 *Friends* (S227). 7.00 *The Simpsons* (S127). 7.30 *Real TV* (A11). 8.00 *Stargate SG-1* (S0577). 9.00 *Sally Jessy Raphael* (T1459). 11.00 *Friends* (S2283). 11.30 *Deep Space Nine* (F1945). 12.30 *Renegade* (S1909). 1.30 - 2.00 *Long Play* (S14563).

SKY SPORTS 1

2.00 *Sky Sports Centre* (T139492). 2.35 *World Wrestling Federation* (T139492). 2.45 *Meridian* (T139492). 3.00 *Real Sports* (T139492). 3.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 4.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 4.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 5.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 5.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 6.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 6.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 7.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 7.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 8.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 8.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 9.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 9.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 10.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 10.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 11.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 11.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 12.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 12.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 13.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 13.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 14.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 14.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 15.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 15.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 16.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 16.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 17.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 17.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 18.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 18.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 19.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 19.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 20.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 20.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 21.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 21.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 22.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 22.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 23.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 23.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 24.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 24.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 25.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 25.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 26.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 26.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 27.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 27.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 28.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 28.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 29.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 29.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 30.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 30.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 31.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 31.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 32.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 32.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 33.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 33.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 34.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 34.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 35.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 35.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 36.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 36.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 37.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 37.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 38.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 38.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 39.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 39.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 40.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 40.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 41.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 41.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 42.00 *Boxing* (T139492). 42.30 *Formula 1* (T139492). 43.00 *Motor Sport* (T139492). 43.30 *Football Show* (T139492). 44.00 *Boxing* (T139492

